

JPRS 80415

26 March 1982

Near East/North Africa Report

No. 2512

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

26 March 1982

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

No. 2512

CONTENTS

ISLAMIC AFFAIRS

Briefs

Bangladesh To Get IDB Loan 1

OPEC AFFAIRS

OPEC Members Become Net Borrowers From Western Banks
(AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO, 22 Feb 82) 2

EGYPT

Press Board Election Results Tabulated
(AL-JUMHURIYAH, 16 Jan 82) 3

President Reviews Report by Specialized National Councils
(AL-AKHBAR, 11 Jan 82) 17

Government Paper Calls for Clean Slate in Press
(MAYU, 14 Dec 81) 19

Working Teams Formed To Follow Up on Discipline Campaign
(Abd al-Wahhab Hamid; AL-AHRAM, 16 Jan 82) 21

Security Crackdown in Asyut Governorate Reported
(Badr al-Alfi; AL-AKHBAR, 14 Jan 82) 22

Briefs

Reduction in Presidency Personnel 23
New Aide de Camp 23

IRAN

Governor General Announces Pacification of Kordestan
(Mohammad Asgharnia Interview; KEYHAN, 18 Jan 82) 24

Polytechnic University Resumes Teaching Activities
(Rahimzadeh; KEYHAN, 2 Feb 82) 26

IRAQ

Envoy Threatens To Blacklist Finnish Firms (UUSI SUOMI, various dates)	28
Anger Over Iranian Trade Calm Reaction	
Water Projects in Various Parts of the Country Completed (AL-THAWRAH, 25 Jan 82)	30
Scientific Research Council Announces 5-Year Plan (AL-THAWRAH, 27 Jan 82)	32
Minister of Irrigation Cites Project Completions (AL-THAWRAH, 26 Jan 82)	34

ISRAEL

Four Potential Successors To Begin, Their Affiliations Discussed (Amnon Barzilay; HA'ARETZ, 15 Jan 82)	37
Begin, Ruling Party Act To Undermine Democratic System (Eliyahu Slepter; HA'ARETZ, 15 Jan 82)	41
Labor Faction Shows Ideological Affinity for Right, Gush Emunim (Amnon Rubenstein; HA'ARETZ, 15 Jan 82)	45
Biotechnology Seen Making Advances (Avraham Peleg; MA'ARIV, 15 Jan 82)	49

JORDAN

Military Maneuvers by Israel Feared (Fu'ad Na'im; AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, 18-24 Jan 82)	52
Relations With Syria Deteriorating (AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, 25-31 Jan 82)	54

KUWAIT

Results of Health Care Survey Announced (AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, 7 Feb 82)	56
Housing Grants to Kuwaitis With Non-Kuwaiti Husbands Discussed (AL-TALI'AH, 10 Feb 82)	59

OMAN

Plan for New Dam Approved (OMAN DAILY OBSERVER, 21 Feb 82)	60
---	----

Briefs		
	Royal Decrees Announced	61
	Three Royal Decrees	61
	Port Expansion Planned	61
SAUDI ARABIA		
	Curbs on Aliens Sought	
	(ARAB NEWS, 6 Feb 82)	63
	Panel Prepares Report on Western Province Needs	
	(Maher Abbas; ARAB NEWS, 17 Feb 82)	64
	Financial Backing for West Germans Continues	
	(AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO, 15 Feb 82)	65
Briefs		
	Negotiations Resume With ENI	66
SUDAN		
	Effects of Redivision of South on Numayri Regime Discussed	
	(AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL, 18 Feb 82)	67
	Alleged Assassination Attempt Against Numayri	
	(AL-SAFIR, 7 Feb 82)	71
SYRIA		
	Information Minister Discusses Golan Annexation	
	(Ahmad Iskandar Interview; AL-THAWRAH, 5 Feb 82)	74
	People's Credit Bank Activities Discussed	
	(Najib Ma'srani Interview; AL-BA'TH, 5 Feb 82)	77
	Female Activist Discusses Women's Rights	
	(Muna al-Lababidi Interview; AL-RAY AL-'AMM, 4 Feb 82) ...	79
Briefs		
	Irrigation Projects in Hamah	83
TUNISIA		
	Premier Outlines Theories on Attainment of Maghreb Unity	
	(Mohamed Mzali; AL-HIWAR AL-'ARABI, Jan 82)	84
	Signs of Weakness in Government Outlined	
	(Hammadi Ibn Sa'id; AL-RA'Y, 5 Feb 82)	94

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Dubayy Trade Figures, Increase Noted ('Ali Lashin; AL-BAYAN, 20 Feb 82)	97
Electricity, Water Projects (AL-BAYAN, 18 Feb 82)	99
Agricultural Surpluses Now Exported to Neighboring Countries (Husayn Anwar; AL-BAYAN, 19 Feb 82)	101
Paratrooper Graduation Ceremony (Naji al-Hayik; AL-BAYAN, 22 Feb 82)	102

BRIEFS

BANGLADESH TO GET IDB LOAN--The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is to advance a \$5.14 million loan to Bangladesh to finance the country's raw cotton purchases from Pakistan, it was reported from Jeddah last week. Saeed Ahmed Meenari, IDB's acting president, signed the foreign trade financing operation agreement with officials of the Bangladesh government. The loan is the third to be awarded to Bangladesh by the IDB this year. The other two, which amounted to \$14.79 million, were earmarked for imports of oil and cotton. [Text] [Paris AN NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 8, 22 Feb 82 p 8]

CSO: 4400/154

OPEC MEMBERS BECOME NET BORROWERS FROM WESTERN BANKS

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 8, 22 Feb 82 p 6

[Text]

For the first time since the last quarter of 1978, OPEC member countries have become net borrowers of funds from major Western banks, according to the latest quarterly report issued by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) in Basle.

The report said that new borrowing by OPEC members rose to \$2.4 billion in the third quarter of last year, compared to \$1.3 billion in the previous three months, while their deposits fell by \$700 million. Net borrowings by OPEC countries amounted to \$3.1 billion in the same period.

In the bank's view, the change is due mainly to a fall in the massive balance of payments surpluses accumulated by the oil producing states following the oil price rises of 1979 and 1980. Oil prices and revenues are now being eroded by the oil glut which developed last year.

The combined surplus of the OPEC countries declined to under \$60 billion in 1980, according to the US Federal Reserve Bank (*An-Nahar Arab Report & MEMO*, February 8). The International Monetary Fund had predicted a more modest fall in OPEC surpluses to \$96 billion, compared to the 1980 high of \$112 billion (*An-Nahar Arab Report & MEMO*, July 27, 1981).

The BIS also pointed out that OPEC countries were tending to put more money into long-term investments which do not show up in the statistics.

Inflows of funds from OPEC countries to the banks dropped to \$4.6 billion in the first nine months of last year. BIS figures showed that these had climbed from \$3 billion in 1976 to \$29.9 billion in 1979 and peaked at \$33.9 billion in 1980.

After some delay the banks recycled the funds to other countries and outflows rose from \$21.5 billion in 1976 to \$25.8 billion in 1979 and to \$50.8 billion in

1980. Outflows in the first nine months of 1981 totalled \$39.8 billion.

It should be noted that the figures compiled by the BIS do not include deposits in Swiss trust accounts which rose by \$6 billion in the third quarter of last year. Some of these funds came from OPEC countries.

CSO: 4400/155

PRESS BOARD ELECTION RESULTS TABULATED

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 16 Jan 82 p 6

[Article: "The Winners in the Press Elections"]

[Text] Today we are publishing the names of the journalists, administrators and workers elected to membership in the boards of directors and general assemblies of eight press organizations and the National Distribution House.

Al-Tahrir Publishing House

Board of Directors

For the journalists:

Nasif Salim, born in Dumyat on 23 April 1929: He obtained a bachelor's degree in the Arabic Language Faculty, a diploma in social service and a certificate of specialization in teaching from al-Azhar.

He was appointed rewrite man in AL-JUMHURIYAH when it was founded then moved over to the newspaper AL-MASA' as sports editor and returned to AL-JUMHURIYAH as head of the sports section.

He is married and has [a son], Khalid, in the Faculty of Engineering and [a daughter] Manal, in model secondary school.

Isma'il al-Shafi'i: He joined the newspaper AL-AKHSAR in 1952 as the paper's Council of State correspondent.

In 1971 he was appointed head of the news section, then deputy editor in chief and supervisor of the newspaper's news sections.

In December 1955 he was one of six Egyptian journalists chosen to visit the People's Republic of China before Egypt recognized it.

He was chosen member of the News Committee in the specialized national councils.

He is married.

For the administrators:

Sayyid 'Abbas Sayyid: General manager of the United Distribution Company; he was born in October 1939 and obtained a bachelor's degree in commerce, a diploma in taxation and a diploma in tax auditing.

He is married and has two children Ahmad and Muna at the preparatory school level.

Zakariya 'Amir, 53: He is assistant director general of the Egyptian Advertising Company.

He obtained a bachelor's degree in commerce and gradually advanced through the positions of deputy of the audit section, then Advertising Company representative, then deputy chairman of the board of the Advertising Company; he was elected to represent the editors and administrators in the last session.

He has two children, Hisham, who has a bachelor's degree in commerce, and Malak, who is in medicine at 'Ayn Shams.

For the workers:

Mustafa Tawfiq Shu'ayb, 38: He is construction chief in the neon sign shop, head of the organization's union committee, member of the National Party committee in the district of al-Izbikiyah and a student at the Higher Institute of Productive Capacity in al-Zaqaziq.

Ahmad Fahmi 'Abd-al-Majid, 40: He is foreman in the commercial printing section and member of the organization's union committee. He has performed excellent union and trade work in the organization and the General Press Union.

General Assembly

For the journalists:

Jamal Halil, deputy head of the sports section.

He was born on 7 November 1949 in Mit al-Sudan, Dikarnis; he obtained a bachelor's degree in sports education, was an athlete in the past and won a track and field championship.

He was appointed to AL-JUMHURIYAH in 1975 as editor of the sports section and took part in the October war.

He was elected boxing representative for the al-Jizah area 2 years ago.

Ahmad al-Salami, head of the Art Section in the newspaper AL-MASA': He was born in the village of al-Hasamidah, Taha District, on 15 January 1939.

He has originated a number of literary and artistic pieces and ideas, has helped foster talented young people and has written a number of patriotic songs.

'Ali Hashim, 27: He is married, was born in al-Sharqiyah and has a bachelor's degree in the media.

He started journalistic work immediately upon graduation in 1976 as a transportation, communication and television affairs editor. He covers solutions to the masses' problems with telephones, the railway, postal service and transportation in the "Rapid Communications" section of the weekly issue.

'Ayid 'Atwah Sulayman, known as 'Ayid 'Atwah: He is an editor in the economic section, was born in al-Sharqiyah in 1954, obtained a bachelor's degree in the media in 1975 and entered journalistic work in the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH in 1976.

He was a successful announcer on Voice of the Arabs and an editor with MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY, but preferred to work in AL-JUMHURIYAH.

'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Yarqani: He was born in Cairo on 9 October 1942.

He obtained a bachelor's degree in financial and commercial sciences and did higher studies in administrative sciences.

He joined AL-JUMHURIYAH in 1966.

For the administrators:

Husayn Bashindi Ibrahim: He was born in April 1946.

He participated in youth activities in the National Party. He is married and has two children, Najla and Sharif.

'Abd-al-Hafiz Husayn 'Ali: He is a section head in the Distribution Company and is a member of the union committee.

Jalal 'Abd-al-Fattah Farraj: He is a printing superintendent.

He was born in 1944 in the village of al-Mushabi'ah, al-Ghanayim District, and is member of the employees' union committee.

'Abdallah Hibah: He is a payment collection employee with the Egyptian Advertising Company/.

Sayyid Badri, 30: He is an administrative employee in the neon sign department.

He was born in Cairo in 1945.

He is an accountant in the Egyptian Advertising Company, neon sign /section/. He obtained a bachelor's degree from the Institute of Cooperative and Management Affairs.

For the workers:

Sayyid Hasan Shalabi, 35: He is a mechanical Arabic-language typesetting employee.

He started work in 1962.

He is married and has four children.

Ahmad Muhammad Hassan, photographer: He was born in Tanta in 1936.

He is the vice chairman of the General Press, Media and Publication Union, is a member of the union committee and is a member of the secretariat general of workers in al-Jizah Governorate.

He is married and has three girls in university and general secondary schooling.

Isma'il Mahmud, 30: He is an employee in the binding section.

He is married.

Isma'il Yahya, 52: He is a worker in the (rotatype) section.

He is married and has four children.

AL-AKHBAR

Board of Directors

For the journalists:

Jalal Duwaydar: deputy editor in chief.

He began his journalistic career in 1956 2 years before graduating from the Faculty of Letters, Journalism Department. He worked as a correspondent in the areas of taxation, the airport, and the Council of Ministers and was appointed correspondent in Germany. After that he returned to head the News Section, then became assistant deputy editor in chief.

Samit 'Abd-al-Qadir: He is deputy editor in chief.

He graduated from the Faculty of Law in 1957 then worked in AL-AKHBAR before graduation as Council of State correspondent. He shifted about in various areas of activity, until reaching his present position.

For the administrators:

Ahmad Yusuf Hamdi.

Muhammad Sidqi Hamid 'Ashur.

For the workers:

Sayyid Mahmud Ahmad Farahat.

Salah-al-Din Isma'il.

The General Assembly

For the journalists:

Faraq 'Abd-al-'Azim al-Shadhili: He graduated from the Faculty of Physical Education in 1958 and was appointed sports editor, then youth and education affairs editor, and became involved in military affairs on a full-time basis.

Zaki Muhammad Zaki, editorial secretary, AKHIR SA'AH: He graduated from the Faculty of Letters, Department of Journalism, in 1972 and started journalistic work while studying as an editorial secretary, then moved over to AKHIR SA'AH as head of the secretarial department.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Salam Jum'ah.

Muhammad Wajih Abu Dhikri.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Barakat.

For the administrators:

Muhammad Muhammad Farajallah.

Yahya Muhammad Yusuf al-'Inan.

Al-Husayni al-Mirsafawi.

Muhammad al-Sayyid al-'Uqayli.

Shahbur Isma'il Husayn.

For the workers:

Hasan 'Abduh Mustafa.

Yusuf Nasif Bishey.

Ibrahim Husayn al-Bayyumi.

Fahmi Hamdi Muhammad al-Hadidi.

'Id Mahdi 'Abdallah Mukhtar.

AL-AHRAM

Board of Directors

For the journalists:

Sami Mitwalli, 45: He has a bachelor's degree in letters, Department of Journalism.

He is chief of the News Section in AL-AHRAM.

He worked as a parliamentary editor and head of the Political and Youth Organization Section.

Muhammad Basha: He is deputy head of the News Section.

He started as a military editor and now works as local government and Cairo Governorate affairs editor.

For the administrators:

Zakariya Ahmad Mustafa.

Mansur Mahmud al-Sayyid al-Sayyid Ahmad.

For the workers:

'Abbas Ahmad Musa 'Abd-al-Bari

Al Sayyid Bashir 'Ali Kanzi.

General Assembly

For the journalists:

Sabri Abu-al-Fattuh Suwaylim.

'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Aql Musa.

Fu'ad Ahmad Sa'd.

Adam 'Abd-al-Sayyid al-Nawawi.

Muhammad Sami Farid Isma'il.

For the administrators:

'Abd-al-Badi' 'Abd-al-Baqi Haridi.

Muhammad Muhammad Muhammad Salih.

Fu'ad Muhammad 'Adil Jararah.

Sarah Hafiz Hasanayn Yusuf.

Mahmud 'Abd-al-Sami' Muhammad al-Nawawi.

For the workers:

Samir Yusuf 'Abdallah.

Taysir Sayyid Husayn Khalil.

Al-Sayyid Muhammad al-Sayyid 'Uthman.

Sa'id 'Abd-al-Hadi 'Abd-al-Hafiz.

Husayn Ahmad Muhammad al-Sharqawi.

Al-Hilal Publishing House

Board of Directors

For the journalists:

Ahmad Zaki 'Abd-al-Halim, 49: He is the managing editor of the magazine HAWA'.

He has a bachelor's degree in literature.

He began his journalistic work as a staff writer with the magazine AKHIR SA'AH, then the magazine AL-TAHRIR, then AL-MUSAWWAR, before settling down with HAWA'.

Muhammad Ahmad Muhammad Sa'id.

For the administrators:

'Abd-al-Jawad Ahmad Dawud al-Ghamrawi.

Husayn 'Ali Husayn al-Tarawiji.

For the workers:

Ahmad 'Abd-al-Hadi Muhammad Shalabi.

Salah 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd Rabbuh.

General Assembly

For the journalists:

Ahmad Ahmad Ziyadah al-Hijazi, 43: He is head of the file department.

He graduated from the Dar-al-'Ulum [Teachers' Training] Faculty.

Al-Birins Husayn Mahmud 'Ali, editorial secretary of TABIBAK AL-KHASS: He obtained a bachelor's degree in law in 1969, found work in the secretariat of al-Hilal Publishing House, then moved about among AL-KAWAKIB, HAWA', and SAMIR.

'Adil Thabit 'Atallah Bishay.

Sabri Muhammad 'Ashmawi al-Sayyid Salam.

'Ali Muhammad Muhammad Ahmad.

For the administrators:

Ahmad 'Abbas Zaki Hasan.

Hasan 'Ali Hasan 'Ali.

Fathi Ahmad 'Ali al-Zayni.

Mahmud Muhammad 'Atiyah Ahmad.

Muhammad Ibrahim 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Izzat.

For the workers:

Mamduh Ahmad 'Uways Muhammad.

Ahmad Tawfiq Sulayman.

Ahmad 'Abd-al-Latif 'Abdallah.

Al-Sayyid Muhammad Huseyn al-Nahhas.

Faruq Hanafi al-Sayyid Muhammad.

AL-TA'AWUN

Board of Directors

For the journalists:

Al-Sayyid Tawfiq Nur-al-Din: He is editor-in-chief of AL-MAJALLAH AL-IQTISADIIYAH.

He has a bachelor's degree in letters and a diploma in administration from the Faculty of Commerce, 'Ayn Shams.

He has three children - Khalid in engineering, 'Amr in secondary school and Tariq in primary school.

Muhammad Sayfi 'Abd-al-Qadir: He is editor in chief of the establishment's newspapers.

He was one of the establishment journalists who returned after being transferred. He obtained a ruling and decree on being included in the candidates' list 20 hours before the elections started.

For the administrators:

Muhammad Qutb Ibrahim.

Nawwal Hanim Isma'il Ahmad Qasim.

For the workers:

Ahmad Sayyid Ahmad Salim.

Rif'at Ahmad 'Abduh al-Shadhili.

General Assembly

For the journalists:

Ahmad Musaylihi Musa, managing editor: He graduated from the Faculty of Law in 1966 and acquired a degree in journalism from the Faculty of the Media.

With his colleague Muhammad Sayfi he came in second in the findings, the nominations and the results.

Isma'il 'Abd-al-Jawad 'Abd-al-Rahman.

Dr Ahmad 'Azmi al-'Adl.

Anwar Barsum 'Abd-al-Sayyid Wahsh.

Al-Sayyid Ahmad Qandil.

For the administrators:

Fawzi Hammadah Muhammad Sulayman.

Sharif-al-Din 'Abbas Qatar Sayfi.

Ibrahim Muhammad Hamzah.

Nabih Muhammad Mustafa 'Ads.

Ahmad Mahmud 'Ali 'Umar.

For the workers:

Ahmad 'Awad Ahmad.

Nur'al-Din 'Id Mustafa.

Ahmad Kamal-al-Din Muhammad 'Afifi.

'Izz-al-Din Hasan Muhammad 'Awad.

Nabil Faruq 'Abd-al-Hamid Nadim.

AL-MA'ARAF Publishing House and UKTUBAR Magazine

Board of Directors

For the journalists:

Usamah Ayyub Sa'd Ahmad, born September 1953: Arabic Affairs editor of the magazine UKTUBAR. He was in the first class which graduated from the Media Faculty, in 1975.

Najwa al-Sayyid 'Ali Muhammad.

For the administrators:

Ihsan Hasan 'Ali.

'Adil Hasan 'Abduh.

For the workers:

Mustafa Ibrahim Mustafa Abu-al-Rish.

Sabir Mihren Sharif 'Atiyah.

General Assembly

For the journalists:

Muna Muhammad Rajab, born in 1952: She graduated from the Faculty of Economics and Political Science and has written two books, "My Life in 1,000 Days," on Empress Farah, and one which is being printed. She has translated a number of books, most important the memoirs of Weizmann and the first ladies of the American White House.

Muhammad Mahmad Khalafallah.

Bahir Ahmad al-Tuhami.

Amin Abu-al-Majd al-Sayyid Nawfal.

For the administrators:

'Uthman Faraj Faraj Fudah.

Imam Shafi'i Mahmud al-Shaykh.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Azim Ibrahim.

Rabi' Muhammad Ahmad 'Amir.

Jawdah 'Abd-al-Khalil 'Abd-al-Hamid.

For the workers:

'Abd-al-Latif Sayyid 'Abd-al-Latif.

'Abd-al-Raziq 'Abdallah Bakhit.

Mustafa Isma'il al-Sayyid Khayr.

Faruq 'Abd-al-Ghani Mansur.

Muhammad Fathi Mustafa.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY

Board of Directors

For the journalists:

Mahmud 'Abd-al-'Azim Ahmad Mujahid.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Ati Muhammad al-Shinnawi.

For the administrators:

Layla Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim.

Muhammad 'Adil Sami Muhammad.

For the workers:

Shawqi Ahmad Hasan.

Ahmad 'Allish 'Abdallah.

General Assembly

For the journalists:

Ahmad 'Abd-al-Salam 'Abd-al-Rehman.

Muhammad Sa'id 'Abd-al-Hamid

Khalid Muhammad Husayn.

Su'ad Muhammad Mahmud Hamdi.

Muhammad Sid Ahmad.

For the administrators:

'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Abduh Shahin.

'Adil Karibah.

'Umar 'Abd-al-'Aziz Abu-al-'Ala.

Kamal Muhammad al-Jindi.

Mahmud Sayyid Khalil Ibrahim.

For the workers:

Hasan Rizq 'Isa.

Salih Ahmad 'Abdallah.

Ra'fat Muhammad Muhammad Hasan.

Ibrahim 'Ali Muhammad Abu Zayd.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ahmad Sulayman.

The National Distribution Company

Board of Directors

For the administrators:

'Isam-al-Din Ahmad Mahmud al-Sayyid.

Hamdi 'Abd-al-Halim Ahmad.

Fathallah Barberi Rabi' Muhammad.

For the workers:

Ahmad Taha Khalil.

Muhammad Mahmud Amen 'Abdallah.

Sa'id 'Abd-al-Wahid Qutb.

General Assembly

For the administrators:

Yusuf Fathi Mustafa.

Hasan Muhammad Hasan.

'Abdallah Yusuf Muhammad.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Ibrahim Karadiyah.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid Ibrahim.

Yusri Muhammad Bakr Ibrahim.

Shukr Muhammad 'Abd-al-Sami'.

Workers winning on the basis of good records:

Sulayman 'Abd-al-Mun'im Sulayman.

Samir Muhammad Nassar Khamish.

Suhayl Muhammad 'Abdallah.

'Abd-al-'Ati Zaki 'Abd-al-Qadir.

'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-al-Naja al-Jazzar.

'Atiyah Ibrahim al-Sayyid Khattab.

'Ali Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan.

Fathi Ramadan 'Ali Muhammad.

ROSE AL-YUSUF

Board of Directors

For the journalists:

Sabri Musa: deputy editor in chief of the magazine SABAH AL-KHAYR and secretary of the Supreme Press Council's Story Committee.

He graduated from the Faculty of Applied Arts in 1952.

He is a literary figure and novelist who has written a number of novels, some of which have been made into movies.

'Adli Fahim 'Abd-al-Masih: He was Technical Supervisor of the magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF. He worked in a number of magazines starting in 1949. He was engaged in art education instruction from 1954 to 1958, then started working in ROSE AL-YUSUF.

For the administrators:

Muhammad Mustafa Sa'd.

'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Latif.

For the workers:

Isma'il Ahmad Hasan 'Awf.

Muhammad Ibrahim Hashim al-Sannusi.

General Assembly

For the journalists:

Ibrahim Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Huwari.

Durriyah Kamal-al-Din Kamil al-Maltawi.

Ramsis Wasif Zakhari Jirjis.

Samiyah Mari 'Atallah Khilleh.

Majdah Mahmud Ahmad al-Jindi.

For the administrators:

Ibrahim al-Sayyid Qurah.

'Awad Mu'awwad al-Baz.

Ahmad Jamal-al-Din Mustafa.

Ahmad Muhammad al-Sayyid Khalil.

Mahmud al-Sayyid Mansur.

For the workers:

Ahmad Fathi Muhammad al-Mughrabi.

'Abdallah Muhammad 'Abdallah.

Ibrahim 'Abdallah Ibrahim.

Tal'at Mitwalli Hasanayn.

Husayn Qasim Husayn.

11887

CSO: 4504/171

PRESIDENT REVIEWS REPORT BY SPECIALIZED NATIONAL COUNCILS

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 11 Jan 82 p 1

[Article: "President Mubarak Meets With Dr Hatim to Discuss Report of Specialized Councils"]

[Text] Yesterday, President Husni Mubarak met with Dr 'Abd al-Hatim Qadir, the chairman of the Specialized National Councils, for 1 hour and 15 minutes.

After the meeting, Dr Hatim stated that he presented to President Mubarak the first part of the general strategy concerning development of the economy and foreign trade sector, the financial policies, the private business sector, the public sector, communications and transportation, supply and the tourism sector and also concerning the issue of providing housing through the construction of new cities either within or outside the valley. The strategy also includes the issue of education and the information and culture sector.

Dr Hatim also said that the first part of the strategy analyzes and proposes solutions for all the social and economic problems concerning the state, as well as the issue of the citizen's and the country's freedom and the issue of education and scientific research.

He added that through this strategy, separate strategies and policies will be formulated for each sector and a five-year plan will be drawn up for the implementation of each of these strategies and policies and for determining the investments needed for each of these plans.

Dr Hatim asserted that President Mubarak had previously asked the Specialized National Councils to conduct these studies and that the studies have been carried at his request by a select group of Egyptian scientists, experts and intellectuals. The studies have focused on the seven issues raised by President Mubarak. For the first time in Egypt, the studies contain alternatives and solutions insofar as Egypt's future is concerned. Dr Hatim added that the state's general economic and social development strategy is aimed at insuring the citizen's and the country's security, safety, stability and freedom, at realizing social justice and at enhancing production.

Subsidy Issue

Dr Hatim further said: "My meeting with the president has also dealt with all the political and social dimensions of the subsidy issues, with providing housing to every citizen, with the construction and expansion of new cities and with the need to secure the economic resources to build these cities and to create new societies. The meeting also dealt with the issue of the importance of technical training and with the means to create in Egypt a specialized technical instruction apparatus based on the actual needs. Also considered was the issue of labor exportation to the outside world and with formulating a special policy on this issue, considering that Egyptians working abroad contribute to raising the national income. We discussed the import, spending, consumption and public sector issues." Concluding his statement, Dr Hatim said: "President Mubarak has kindly referred the studies presented by the Specialized National Councils to the Council of Ministers to study them and adopt the proper decisions for their implementation."

8494

CSO: 4504/180

GOVERNMENT PAPER CALLS FOR CLEAN SLATE IN PRESS

Cairo MAYU in Arabic No 46, 14 Dec 81 p 7

[Article: "The Press and a New Beginning"]

[Text] This week nationwide press organizations are undergoing the first elections of their kind under the aegis of the new press law. The people working in these organizations are to choose their own representatives to the boards of directors of newspapers and the general assemblies of their organizations, prior to completion of the final form for what has been given the designation "the Fourth Power," that is, the press.

In this regard we can mention the wide-ranging discussions that have gone on on various levels during the stage of preparation for issuance of this law and the journalistic, legal and constitutional battles that have gone on among the various camps, ranging from the desire to make the press a pliant subordinate instrument of the executive power to the desire to liberate the press from all restrictions, forms of subordination and responsibilities, even those related to responsibility for one's own word and professional honor. The final result was an agreement on a new formula which is perhaps without precedent in the world, making the press an independent authority supervised by the Supreme Press Council, which is headed by the Consultative Assembly and whose areas of competence are defined in accordance with the contents of the law and the stipulations of the constitution.

This new formula has tried, and to some degree or another has succeeded, in reconciling two basic matters:

Protecting freedom of opinion and speech, by supporting the role of the nationwide press in implanting democracy and guaranteeing the right of journalists and opinion leaders to express their views without suffering in their livelihood or their work, as long as that is within the limits of the law and the constitution and professional honor.

Creating a sort of complex of rules guaranteeing the harmony of rhythm in society between the enormous influence of the print media in forming, forging and guiding public opinion and the degree of development our society has reached and the economic, political and social challenges facing it, which are of a high degree of complexity and sensitivity.

The experiment is a new one, with all the meaning that the word evokes, and no one alleges that this new formula which has been achieved in the form of the press law

has reached a degree of perfection or represents the best system. However, it at least merits worth being applied and being subjected to serious, aware followup.

Fortunately, the measures for completing the final composition of the boards of directors and general assemblies of the newspapers have begun to be carried out in a new atmosphere, following a difficult period fraught with activity. The new atmosphere is bringing with it a new spirit in the form of the sincere desire to have all the institutions on which we have reached mutual consent embark on their activity and their tasks, setting their sights on Egypt's interests above everything and the need to strive to achieve hopes for progress, welfare and democracy.

In this new climate, the press institutions are for the first time experiencing total freedom to choose their candidates without party guardianship and interference on the part of their board chairmen or editors in chief or indications from the authorities that specific candidates should be allowed to win; it is an atmosphere in which the desire to rise up to bear responsibility has prevailed which every person working in the press feels is a grave responsibility that will determine the course and the future of the experiment.

It is certain that the destiny and future of the experiment will depend on the degree of seriousness and commitment that all the parties adopt. After their formation, one should not presume that the boards and general assemblies of the newspapers will turn into formalistic boards or societies. One should not presume that they will be converted into instillments for achieving personal goals or individual interests. At the same time, one should not presume that they will be turned into causes for obstruction, for provoking futile disputes, or for thwarting the progress, development and takeoff of the institutions of the press. Indeed, the opposite of all this is correct: the boards of directors and general assemblies will bear their responsibilities in full in striving to consummate the progress and prosperity of the Egyptian press, guarantee its independence and defend its freedom, and the Supreme Press Council, and the Journalists' Union along with it, will bear the responsibility of making the experiment succeed, perfecting it and correcting it if necessary.

The press, and the people working in it, bear a special responsibility in calling for, inculcating and defending democracy, not just by virtue of the pioneering role that the press plays but also by virtue of what its writers, thinkers and workers call for. The experiment that the press is introducing is a test of democratic maturity and the true exercise of democracy, no matter what some people's objections and criticisms of the restrictions to which the press is still subjected might be.

No intelligent person can set the experiment, in spite of its modest nature, outside history or view it without measuring it against what is happening in more advanced and developed societies, while taking the state of our society with all its negative and positive features into consideration. Therefore the experiment belongs to us all, and the people have the right to demand that the press and the journalists develop their true potential and attain their goals, if we wish further perfection from them.

11887

CSO: 4504/171

WORKING TEAMS FORMED TO FOLLOW UP ON DISCIPLINE CAMPAIGN

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Jan 82 p 1

[Article by 'Abd al-Wahhab Hamid: "Thirty Working Teams for Ministries and Governorates to Follow up Discipline Laws, Eliminate Laxity and Simplify Procedures"]

[Text] The Central Management and Organization Agency has begun formulating the new measures to follow up the implementation of discipline, the elimination of laxity and the simplification of procedures. The agency has decided to dispatch 30 working teams, each headed by a ministry undersecretary working in the agency. Fifteen of the working teams will go to the governorates and the other 15 to the ministries. The teams include a group of experts in the spheres of organization and management, procedure simplification, job classification, training and civil service.

Dr Hasan Tawfiq, the agency chairman, has stated that the followup committees have begun their work to familiarize themselves with the administrative, organizational and service problems to insure that services are rendered to the citizens quickly, to make a count of the excess labor and to utilize it after transformation training and to follow up on implementation of the labor laws now that it has become evident that a number of circles have not implemented these laws yet.

Dr Hasan Tawfiq has also said that the agency has prepared the organizational structure of the followup bureaus, their systems of work, their relations with the main divisions of each unit and the type of individuals needed to manage these bureaus. He has also said that the committees will devote major attention to the excess labor so that it may be employed in the development projects.

He has further said that the committees, which have begun their work, will contact directly, the top leaderships in the ministries, authorities and governorates with the aim of helping to determine the means needed to realize the discipline policy, to follow up the enactment of the measures capable of realizing policy and to make sure of the effectiveness of the measures in bringing about an effective and tangible development.

8494

CSO: 4504/180

SECURITY CRACKDOWN IN ASYUT GOVERNORATE REPORTED

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 14 Jan 82 p 1

[Article by Badr al-Alfi: "Arrest of 3,000 Escaped Convicts and Seizure of Weapons Arsenal and of 14 Feddans Cultivated With Drugs in Biggest Campaign Against Asyut Mountain Caves"]

[Text] A campaign headed by Maj Gen Husayn al-Samahi, the assistant minister of interior and director of the Public Security Agency, has resulted in the seizure of 3,853 pieces of unlicensed weapons and in the arrest of 3,000 convicts who have escaped criminal jail sentences in Asyut Governorate.

The campaign started on 2 January and the Public Security Agency intelligence and the intelligence bureaus of the Asyut police districts and precincts took part in the 9-day campaign which inspected the mountain caves and the farms on the Nile. The participating forces have been able to seize 3,853 pieces of unlicensed weapons, including 1,000 semi-automatic weapons, an automatic submachinegun, 682 rifles, 951 shotguns, 43 handguns and 1,926 locally made pistols.

Maj Gen Husayn al-Samahi's instructions called for focusing on those escaping jail sentences so that they may not repeat their crimes while at large. A total of 46 escaped convicts sentenced for felonies, 3,956 convicts sentenced to prison terms, 9,456 convicts sentenced to penalties for misdemeanors and 3,488 escaped convicts sentenced to fines for infractions have been arrested [figures as published]. A total of 1,857 youths evading conscription have also been arrested.

While chasing the outlaws outside the cities and villages, the campaign was also able to seize hashish and opium (Indian cannabis and poppy plants) cultivations over an area of 14 feddans, mostly in the islands scattered in the Nile and in villages. The owners of the cultivations have been arrested and cited for the felony of drug cultivation.

In compliance with the Ministry of Interior's instructions calling for reconciliation of feuding families and for putting an end to the river of blood resulting from their acts of revenge, the intelligence inspectors in the Ministry of Interior and in the Public Security Agency, district and precinct police chiefs, acting under the immediate supervision of the security director, have brought about reconciliation in 38 family feuds in which the feuding parties have handed their weapons over to the police as proof of their goodwill.

BRIEFS

REDUCTION IN PRESIDENCY PERSONNEL--It has been decided to transfer 6 under-secretaries and 12 general directors from the presidential office to other civilian jobs as part of the plan to reduce the personnel working at the presidency. This has been stated by an official source at the president's office. [Text] [Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 16 Jan 82 p 1] 8494

NEW AIDE DE CAMP--A decree has been issued appointing Staff Maj Gen Muhammad Najati Harb senior aide de camp at the presidency. Major General Najati is one of the heroes of the October war in which he commanded one of the infantry brigades which crossed the canal. He has also held the positions of chief of staff of the Second Army, commander of the infantry corps and organization and management director. [Text] [Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 18 Jan 82 p 1] 8494

CSO: 4504/180

GOVERNOR GENERAL ANNOUNCES PACIFICATION OF KORDESTAN

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Jan 82 p 14

[Interview with Governor General Mohammad Asgharnia]

[Text] Bakhtaran - KEYHAN correspondent - Mohammad Asgharnia, Kordestan's new governor general, was one of the region's enthusiastic authorities during last week's Unity ceremonies, when he organized extensive activities. He took part in an exclusive interview with KEYHAN's field reporter.

During the interview, while pointing to the fact that the order and security prevailing in the region during the Unity Week ceremonies was confirmed by the representatives sent and the caravans that were in Kordestan, he stated: The Kordestan Governor General's Office also intends to ask the Iranian people to travel to this province during the Now-Ruz vacation.

Concerning the circumstances surrounding the Unity Week ceremonies, he said: Unity Week ceremonies in the Kurdish regions were peerless and unprecedented. The sunni brothers' welcome to the shi'ite brothers was so openly manifest that the two groups completely forgot their sectarian differences, and hand in hand they brought the week to conclusion.

He added: For example, during a trip we made to Baneh as a favor to Hojjatoleslam Sane'i, the reception from the people in the Baneh mosque was so warm that on that very spot I immediately gave an order for the completion of the mosque and the construction of a theological school. The Governor General's Office agreed to give 5 million rials aid.

He furthermore said: In the Qorveh city-region, a 7,200 square meter lot was considered for building a Qorveh municipal police station. The people had requested the construction of a police station and the maintenance of the law, and so in their presence ground was broken for the station.

As the interview with the KEYHAN reported dispatched from Bakhtaran continued, the governor general gave further explanations concerning the order and security prevailing in the region during Unity Week, and said: If you want to know what the state of Kordestan's security is under current conditions, you should ask the people themselves. You should ask the Muslim truck-drivers who deliver the region's provisions and fuel. In summary, this province's security is no less than any other's.

In another portion of the interview, pointing to the defeat of the counter-revolution in the region, he stated: The counterrevolution's lying cry of support for the Kurdish people is no longer fooling anyone in this region. The counterrevolution has despaired of this province. It is only to get revenge on the innocent Kurdish people that it bothers and annoys them on various pretexts. For example, the counterrevolutionaries take an ambulance driver and wounded passenger hostage and carry them off. Or for example, in various locations they prevent kerosene-truck-drivers from delivering fuel to the people, imagining that they can create popular dissatisfaction. Despite all these occasional threats, the Kurdish people know the counter-revolutionaries for what they are. When the imposed war ends with the victory of Islam's warriors, the counterrevolutionaries will also be compelled to flee the Iranian Islamic homeland at the heels of their masters.

In response to the KEYHAN reporter's subsequent question concerning the fuel supply to Kordestan Province, the governor general said: In addition to what I have said about the counterrevolution's threats and its annoyance of Muslim truck-drivers, I have spoken with the Minister of Petroleum about consigning more tanker trucks, and I have gained his consent to supply more fuel.

Concerning the housing of Marivan war victims, the governor general said: This group has been housed in Marivan's residential districts under the care of the War Victims Foundation, and there are no worries on this account.

Asgharnia described the status of the war fronts in Kordestan as extremely good, and said: While the courage and bravery of the battling brothers in the Guards, army, Mobilization and Muslim Kurdish Pishmargan is of epic proportions on the fronts of truth over evil, still some selfish city dwellers are crying about shortages or delays in some goods, and do nothing other than voice despair and make the people pessimistic. I wish they would come and stay on the fronts so that they would understand the meaning of remaining alive and living in freedom.

9597

CSO: 4640/165

POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY RESUMES TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Feb 82 p 3

[Speech by Engr Rahimzadeh, dean of Polytechnic University]

[Text] KEYHAN EDUCATIONAL SERVICE - On the anniversary of the arrival of the nation's imam and the beginning of the Ten Days of Dawn, those students included in the first stage of the Five University Transfer Plan resumed their studies in a ceremony at Polytechnic University.

Present at the ceremony which was held in Polytechnic University's Amfi Theater were Dr Najafi, Minister of Culture; Dr Sorush, Dr Habibi, Hojjatoleslam Dr Ahmadi and Jalaaleddin Farsi, members of the Cultural Revolution Staff, Hojjatoleslam Ahmadi, Bandar 'Abbas Friday prayer leader and theological school representative in Polytechnic University, and several officials from the Cultural Revolution Staff's expert groups.

According to the report of KEYHAN's educational reporter, the ceremony began with a reading of verses from the Glorious Koran, and then Engineer Rahimzadeh, president of Polytechnic University, gave a speech concerning the resumption of educational activities.

During a portion of his speech, he said: If spirituality and purity of the environment predominates at the university, it will prevent perversion in thought, behavior and belief. Just as society is rubbing out the thesis of the separation of church and state and intends to lay the foundation for a theocracy, we in the university must also reject the thesis of the separation of science from faith, and join science and faith in all dimensions.

He added: Inspired by the imam's guidance and supported by science and faith, we invited a number of committed and experienced professors from other universities. More than 90 percent of them accepted the invitations, and it was for this reason that good and rational educational planning was done.

The Polytechnic president, continuing his speech, noted: That group of students who sense a lack of coordination in the educational levels should strive so that this term's educational level is not harmed, and try to create the necessary coordination. At the same time I must point out that from this term henceforward we are dealing not only with Polytechnic University, but

instead with the totality of concerned universities. Naturally they are confronting other difficulties. I ask all students and employees to confront these difficulties with liberality.

Then Dr Soroush, a member of the Cultural Revolution Staff's Supreme Council, spoke about the reopening. During a part of his speech he said: Sometimes a gentle breeze blows on us that comes from God. I consider the Iranian Islamic revolution to be a breeze from God's mercy. We should expose ourselves to it and be grateful for it. He then noted: We also believe that the transfer programs are not ideal. Instead they were mainly put together for those brother and sister students who have completed the major part of their courses, since their employment depends on holding a diploma.

Dr Soroush in conclusion said: The gradual reopening caused officials themselves to gain experience in this field. Oh, Iranians and Muslims, we hope that your actions in carrying out your share of duty to the country will aid us in this path. Thus when the Islamic University gets under way we will achieve more desirable results.

During the ceremony a message was read from Polytechnic University's Crusade Council, a part of which stated: The university in which you now set foot has a long road ahead of it. In the words of our imam, perhaps it will take 20 years for the university to become Islamic. That which here meets you as a post-cultural revolution university is an environment free of local and political collusion, in which officials will gather experience towards making the Islamic University a reality and towards laying the foundations of a new higher educational system. Thus officials will be able to implement university reopening on the basis of the experience gained from the transfer plan and other areas. Therefore the existence of implementive and educational insufficiencies, difficulties and weaknesses is unavoidable.

The message also pointed to the role of professors in Islamic universities, and stated: Due to the unpleasant precedent that the foreign-educated created, the professors must display their honest efforts to society, so that they can prove to the people their belief in the Islamic revolution. Professors must make students aware of their fundamental duties, and warn them of the influence of harmful things. Furthermore, the student's fundamental duty is to precisely understand the economic, industrial, agricultural, medical and educational shortages, weaknesses and crises, and to present a way to eliminate them by gaining a specialty needed by society.

At the end of the seminar, Hojjatoleslam Ahmadi, Bandar 'Abbas Friday prayer leader and theological school representative at Polytechnic University, gave a speech concerning piety and the value of science.

It is necessary to note that in this term more than 600 students from the universities of Polytechnic, San'ati-ye Sharif, Science and Industry of Iran, and Shiraz, and Tehran Technical College will study in 7 fields.

9597

CSO: 4640/165

ENVOY THREATENS TO BLACKLIST FINNISH FIRMS

Anger Over Iranian Trade

Helsinki UUSI SUOMI in Finnish 15 Feb 82 p 3

[Article: "Iranian Visit Irritating; Amash Threatens Blacklisting"]

[Text] Ambassador Saleh Mehdi Amash, the Iraqi envoy to Finland, is again irritated by the foreign trade relations maintained by Finnish firms. This time it concerns Iraq's enemy Iran.

Amash told this newspaper on 14 February that he could place "on a blacklist" those firms that enter into dealings with the Iranian trade delegation currently visiting in Helsinki.

The ambassador stresses the idea that, "No country friendly to Iraq can ever give assistance to Iran." He quickly adds that Finland makes its own decisions.

"The Finns must come to understand that we are trying to halt the Iranian aggression against our country."

Do you intend to actually blacklist those firms that engage in trade with Iran?

"That depends on the type of assistance they give to the Iranians. Blacklists may perhaps come into consideration, or then, something else of that nature."

The ambassador had a diplomatic answer to the question whether the contracts with Iraq are jeopardized by those firms engaging in trade in Iran.

"That depends on whether the Finns are, or are not, going to help the Iranians. But we also shall decide who is our friend or who is our enemy."

The self-initiated 11-member Iranian trade delegation arrived in Finland on the evening of 11 February. Since then the Trade Policy Division of the Finnish Foreign Ministry has arranged tours for them in industrial establishments and appointments with various Finnish representatives. The visit has been described as being mainly of a familiarization nature, with the intent that the actual trade deals are to be concluded at some later date.

The delegation will leave for Iran on 15 February.

Foreign Trade Minister Esko Rekola is not aware of Ambassador Amash's points of view. Rekola is scheduled to meet with the chairman of the delegation today.

"Finland has normal diplomatic relations with both Iran and Iraq. I do not know what kinds of negotiations the delegation has discussed with the firms," says Rekola.

Calm Reaction

Helsinki UUSI SUOMI in Finnish 16 Feb 82 p 16

[Article: "Ambassador's Utterances About 'Blacklist' not yet Cause for Alarm; Exports Continue Impartially to Iran and Iraq"]

[Excerpts] The threats about a "blacklist" by Iraqi Ambassador Amash have not been a cause for alarm among those Finnish export firms that have trade relations in Iran.

The situation is being closely observed, however, because it is not yet entirely clear what the ambassador actually meant. Disconcerted Finnish exporters give assurances that they seek to conduct trade independently and with impartiality.

No Cause for Concern

Foreign trade minister Esko Rekola is amazed at the amount of excitement that is being caused by Ambassador Amash's statements. He has received no reports about any threats, so there is no cause for concern. Finland has normal diplomatic relations with both Iran and Iraq.

5955

CSO: 3107/75

WATER PROJECTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY COMPLETED

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 Jan 82 p 7

[Article: "Seventy-eight Water and Sewer Projects Have Been Implemented Throughout the Country At a Cost of 187 Million Dinars; Designs and Studies Have Been Prepared For the Implementation of 127 New Projects"]

[Text] The State Water and Sewer Project Organization completed 20 water projects in various parts of the country last year at a cost of 15,988,000 dinars. Work is continuing on 58 other projects at a cost of 172 million dinars.

This was announced by a source in the organization who said that the organization's personnel in its various installations were doing their utmost to implement the projects specified in the development plans while supporting our just battle--Saddam's Qadisiyah--inasmuch as the workers have been able to achieve high rates of accomplishment in implementing these projects in spite of the war conditions imposed on us.

He added that the projects completed by the organization last year included water purification projects in Dahuk, al-Shamal, Tall 'Afar, Sinjar, Hariba and al-Hadar in the Governorate of Nineveh; water projects in al-'Ubaydi, al-Bughar, al-Baghdadi, the villages of Hit and al-Habaniyah in the Governorate of al-Anbar; and construction of new reservoirs and improvement of the current water system in Karbala'.

They also include construction of an elevated reservoir in al-Qadisiyah; a water project in al-Khadar and the villages of al-Warka' in al-Muthanna; and a project for conveying water to al-Zubayr.

Projects that are being implemented gradually include 55 construction projects and a reservoir system with distribution pipelines as follows: one in Dahuk; another in Nineveh; three in Irbil; four in al-Ta'mim; three in Diyali; six in Salah al-Din; two in Baghdad; four in al-Anbar; two in Wasit; one each in al-Qadisiyah, al-Muthanna, Maysan and al-Basrah.

The organization is extending three sewer systems in Nineveh, and one each in al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil. It is also expanding the water pipeline system in the villages of al-Huwayjah in al-Ta'mim, and is extending two water

pipeline systems in Amarli and Yayiji in the same governorate. It is extending water pipeline systems in Yathrib, al-Ishaqi, Tall al-Za'tar and al-Ta'mim in Salah al-Din; an untreated water system in Samarra'; two water pipeline systems in al-Anbar and another in al-Sharqat in Nineveh at a cost of 114 million dinars.

The source said that the central water projects, the local village projects and those currently under implementation comprise 76 percent of the projects that had been planned for 1981, excluding new and postponed projects. Their total cost amounted to 318 million dinars.

The sewer and pipeline projects currently under implementation comprise 84 percent of the projects scheduled for last year. Their total cost amounts to 202 million dinars.

Studies and designs for 62 water and sewer system projects in various parts of the country have been completed. The organization's personnel are currently preparing studies and designs for 65 additional projects.

The source said that the organization had purchased 86 million dinars worth of pipes, equipment, machinery and filtration and disinfectant substances to operate the projects.

9123

CSO: 4404/275

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COUNCIL ANNOUNCES 5-YEAR PLAN

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Jan 82 p 7

[Article: "Five-Year Scientific Research Plan Announced; Research To Be Carried Out In the Fields Of Industry, Agriculture, Oil and Solar Energy"]

[Text] The Scientific Research Council announced its 5-year plan for 1981-1985, giving details about research projects to be implemented by the scientific research centers, and proposals for additional projects and research.

This was announced by Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Kazim, the director general of the Council for Scientific Affairs. He said that the plan's general framework includes seven primary areas which deal with the importance of scientific research and its relation to progress in general, the general and specific goals of scientific research, the plan's guidelines, and the policies which must be applied to realize the plan.

Dr Kazim said that the plan includes various aspects of scientific research and development, with emphasis on the former at this stage. It stresses the importance of science and technology as a general endeavor as part of the development process, and planning for scientific research projects so as to ensure maximum benefit from the research. It calls for the establishment of new research centers, and concerns itself with the establishment of research and development units in factories, developing a cadre to fill the need for people engaged in scientific research, and coordination among the various facilities in matters of scientific research.

He added that the goals of scientific research in agriculture include broadening scientific applications to farming and gardening; use of fertilizer; protection of plants, environment and pastures; inventing new varieties of crops; encouraging new methods of farming and production; providing the large requirements for fertilizer; conducting research on plant diseases; increasing fruit yields and expanding the area of fruit-bearing plants under cultivation; developing desert areas into natural grazing land; increasing the numbers of date palms; expanding the cultivation of date palms in gardens; and improving methods of preserving and processing dates.

The plan also establishes principles for research in the area of livestock production. It calls for studies of climate and water supply, the relation between subterranean water sources and those at the surface, the water consumption of various crops, and surface water sources.

Dr Kazim added that in the area of soil and land reclamation the council's plan included conducting research on improving the quality of the soil and modern methods of irrigation.

He said that with regard to the oil and natural gas industry the council's plan made reference to conducting scientific research toward improving the methods of extraction, processing and refining of oil and gas, developing the petrochemical industry, and enhancing the technology and the acquisition of technological and research expertise in the oil and gas industry.

The plan calls for development of the chemical industry and dealing with the problems associated with it. It calls for advancing the technology of precise chemical analysis to understand the characteristics of petrochemicals. It calls for research in petroleum chemistry, cellulose, paper manufacturing and the treatment of pollution and industrial wastes.

9123

CSO: 4404/275

MINISTER OF IRRIGATION CITES PROJECT COMPLETIONS

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 Jan 82 p 7

[Article: "Minister Of Irrigation Tells AL-THAWRAH: 110 Percent Implementation Of Irrigation Projects Last Year; New Projects Include Dams, Irrigation, Land Reclamation and Development Of Desert Areas"]

[Text] Mr 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, the minister of irrigation, announced that despite the war conditions imposed on our brave nation by the racist Persian enemy 110 percent of the irrigation projects scheduled for implementation by the ministry last year were actually implemented. That is 10 percent above what the plan called for.

In a statement to AL-THAWRAH the minister of irrigation said also that the ministry's technical personnel, engineers and laborers had redoubled their efforts to raise the percentage of implemented projects to support the national battle being waged by our people against the enemies of the Arab people, and to consolidate their victories.

Dam Projects

As far as dam projects are concerned the ministry was able to complete 20 percent of the al-Mawsil dam for which only 15 percent had been scheduled. It completed 24 percent of the work on the Hadithah dam which will be completed in 1985.

Last year the ministry completed the Hamrin dam and al-Rutbah dam project which is of particular significance because it is in a desert region with little water. Preliminary designs for the Najmah dam have been completed and the ministry will complete the final design by July. It will be the highest dam in the Middle East and will have a generating capacity of 2,000 megawatts of electricity.

Harnessing Our Water Resources

Mr Mahmud emphasized that upon completion of these projects and others--among them the Dahuk dam and other dams in the north and in the western desert--we will have harnessed essentially all our water resources.

Strategic Projects

As far as strategic projects are concerned the ministry completed preliminary designs for the al-Jazirah project, implementation of which is expected to begin next year, as is implementation of all portions of the first phase of the Kirkuk irrigation project. We have utilized modern scientific methods for implementing this project, in lining the main streams, irrigation networks and pipes in the fields. Construction of seven dams on the Euphrates has begun, while designs for five other large dams in the Hillah-Kifl-Shinafiyah project have been prepared in view of the importance of the Euphrates Basin and the necessity for utilizing its soil which has suffered from cycles of drought and flooding.

The minister said that the Higher Committee On the Euphrates Basin had begun land reclamation in the basin as part of the Abu Gharib project and the Hillah-Diwaniyah Wahlah-Kifl project. He said that these projects would revolutionize water distribution in the Euphrates basin and would lead to intelligent scientific utilization of the land.

Reclamation Of New Land

With regard to land reclamation which is of great importance in the advancement of agriculture Mr 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud emphasized that the ministry had completed reclamation of 140,000 dunams last year, 30,000 dunams more than had been scheduled for reclamation. We have also devised a 5-year plan to reclaim approximately 2.5 million dunams of land. This is an ambitious plan that seeks to reclaim every inch of our dear land, and to exploit it in the furtherance of our national economy.

The ministry has begun construction of a large number of strategic irrigation projects, among them the Hillah-Diwaniyah project, the al-Dilj, Diyali and al-Ishaqi projects and other important projects.

New Legislation For Project Maintenance

The minister of irrigation stated that in light of the directives of our leader, Saddam Husayn, we have drafted legislation to extend the duties of everyone in the Ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation, and both farmers and management, to the area of project maintenance, inasmuch as maintenance is no less important than construction of the project itself.

Within the ministry's plan for digging wells 487 were dug during the past year in various parts of the country, making a total of 5,000 wells that have been dug so far. Moreover, 15 oases have been built in the Western Desert in various arid locations to be used for cultivation of vegetables and other purposes.

The Importance Of the Upcoming Agriculture Conference

The minister said that the 11th General Agricultural Conference which will be held in mid-February is particularly important since it is being held

while our brave country is embarked on a noble war against enemies of the Arab people instigated by imperialistic Zionism in an attempt to thwart the tremendous progress through which our leader Saddam Husayn is guiding us. For this reason we must all do our utmost to bring about advances in agriculture and to explore the means to ensure increased agricultural production while supporting the national battle and consolidating the victories of Saddam Husayn's army on the eastern flank of our great Arab Nation.

Effective Participation In the National Battle

On the subject of participation by the ministry and its workers in the national battle the minister said that it is a great honor for us to have the ministry, with its cadres, its organization and its equipment, participate in Saddam's Qadisiyah. Examples of this may be seen in the construction of a large number of barricades in the liberated areas of al-Ahwaz. More than 30 million cubic meters of earth was used for these barricades. Since the beginning of our war 90 percent of the ministry's machinery has been used to construct the earthen barricades.

Mr Mahmud concluded his talk with a commitment to President Saddam Husayn to do his utmost to implement the plans assigned to the ministry and to increase agricultural production, while supporting the battle, by implementing the projects and exploiting water resources scientifically and intelligently.

9123

CSO: 4404/275

FOUR POTENTIAL SUCCESSORS TO BEGIN, THEIR AFFILIATIONS DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jan 82 p 14

[Article by Amnon Barzilay: "The Successors Are Waiting for Begin"]

[Text] Two unknowns are troubling the rising leaders of Herut. One, the health of the Likud leader, Prime Minister Menahem Begin. The other, which is linked to the first: will Begin head the Likud in the next election? Unable to get an answer to these questions, and uncertain about the government's chances of finishing its term, people in Herut are ill at ease. The increased activity in the central section of the ruling party also has to do with the forthcoming party meeting, a few months from now. The question of the succession, which was taboo until recently, is now one of the most discussed topics in the party. Even if Begin continues to head the government, and even if the government finishes its term, the party leaders are taking seriously Begin's remark that he will retire at the end of the present term. Begin promised Likud supporters during the election campaign that he had changed his mind and would not retire at age 70 (in less than 2 years), but at the end of the term; if it ends on time, Begin will be over 72. Even as he insists that he wants to write his memoirs and retire from leadership of the Likud after more than 8 years in power, his movement is preparing for the struggle for the succession.

Ezer Weizman's retirement from the government, from the Herut movement and from political life has erased his name from the list of potential candidates to succeed Begin. His name had headed the list for many years. Now, as members of the party hasten to confirm, he is not a candidate. And, lo and behold, instead of shrinking, the list of candidates has grown. The four leading names are Minister of Foreign Affairs Yitzhak Shamir, Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, Finance Minister Yoram Aridor and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Construction & Housing David Levi. One of the four, all of whom are gaining acceptance with the public, is likely to be picked as Begin's successor. Which one, no one knows.

It is not certain Begin himself will be able to pick the person the Herut party center will vote for, unless Begin is able to discover the sense of the center and the broadcast consensus. But the choosing of a successor for Mr Begin is

predicated on the date of the prime minister's retirement and the circumstances that will be created at that time. Will he retire in the middle of the term or at the end? In the first instance, the Herut will have to choose a candidate who will head the government, and the main goal will be to prevent any tremors in the Likud and in the coalition and to ensure the continuation of the government until November 1985. In the second instance, the question will be, which candidate for Begin's succession has the best chance of appealing to the public.

The only common denominator of the four candidates is their personal loyalty to Begin. This fact has great political significance. Weizman had played it down; Sharon did his homework. Starting from a position of weakness, Sharon gained a strong position inside Herut. The man who came to Metzudat Zeev 4 and a half years ago with 60 supporters, who helped him establish the Shlomtzion Party, did not establish a faction inside the party. But his popularity in the party center, the only action center in the ruling party, is influenced by his popular support, which has increased since he became minister of defense. In a certain respect, Sharon now fills the vacuum created by Weizman's retirement. He, too, is a charismatic and controversial general. He has his own political and security ideology. But while Weizman was trying to force on his movement a moderate ideology, Mapai-style, Sharon continues the tradition of the Whole Land of Israel ala Herut and Tehiyah. Sharon does not have soldiers in the Herut center. In this respect he is like Moshe Dayan when the latter served as minister of defense in the Alignment government. But he has certain prestige and appeal, especially among those who vote for the Likud.

Prestige and Appeal

The man who is now considered most likely to succeed Begin is Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir. The former Lehi commander, the shy man who turned to political life in his sixties, amazed the public no less than he did his own party members. He stepped into the big shoes of his predecessors Moshe Dayan and Yigal Allon and did not fail. Although he did not vote for the peace treaty, Shamir appears as more moderate than Sharon, who supported the treaty. Yet inside the Herut party he is supported by activists, including Knesset members who are hawks, like Mikhael Degel, Yosef Rom and Moshe Arens, as well as the more moderate Roni Milo.

The appointment of Arens as ambassador to Washington weakens the group of Shamir's supporters. He will be replaced in the Knesset by Mikhael Kleiner, who is close to Ministers Aridor and Levi. But Shamir may benefit from Weizman's absence from the political arena. Under different circumstances, Weizman might have been a more likely candidate than Shamir, a view shared by the Liberal Party partners. But given the present choice between him and Sharon, Shamir may win. If for some reason Begin quits in the middle of his term, Aridor and Levi would also prefer Shamir to Sharon. But this may be limited support for the short term.

The greatest surprise in the Likud and especially in the Herut is of course the meteoric rise of Aridor. Even if public opinion makers believe that Aridor has failed as finance minister, the assessment in his party is different, not only

because of his share in winning the election but also because of the feeling that still persists that his is a correct economic policy. Aridor was able during the past year to free himself of the label of "loser" that has clung to him during his political career. While serving as finance minister, Aridor did not neglect his involvement in the party. For 18 months Aridor has served as chairman of the Secretariat of Herut. This is the equivalent of secretary general of the Labor Party.

His ability to combine the job of finance minister and party secretary is reminiscent of the late Pinhas Sapir. His loyal friends, the members of the secretariate, hold key positions in Metzudat Zeev: Knesset Member Mikha Reiser is head of the organization section; Deputy Finance Minister Hayim Kaufmann is head of the municipal section; Nakhman Perl is the party treasurer (chairman of the board of trustees of El Al); Gid'on Gadot is head of the information section; and Aryeh Kramer, Deputy Minister Moshe Katzav, Knesset Member Meir Cohen. Aridor keeps giving out recognition and public posts. At a meeting at his home 2 months ago, Aridor said clearly that he did not think he was less of a worthy candidate for prime minister than anyone else.

The fourth candidate, David Levi, is in a most delicate and embarrassing situation. Although his part in the victory in the election cannot be measured, it is customary to say that he gets votes among Oriental Jews. He has the unqualified support of hundreds of Herut center representatives from the development towns. But twice during the past 6 months Levi was burned, the first time when the prime minister took away from him the absorption portfolio and gave it to Abuhatzira. The hurt was double because the office was turned over to another Moroccan Jew. Begin tried to pacify Levi by appointing him deputy prime minister, but hurt him again when he did not appoint him to the ministerial defense committee and thus reduced the status of his title of deputy prime minister.

Despite his important title and the respect he enjoys, David Levi's status within his own party has declined. Not through any fault of his own, but because of the unexpected rise of Aridor. Levi and Aridor have a rich past together, when they ran the Blue and White faction in the Histadrut. The Herut activists who support Aridor are also considered Levi's men (Reiser and Kleiner, for example). In 1977 Levi overtook Aridor when he became the Likud candidate for secretary general of the Histadrut. As minister of absorption and housing, Levi knew how to use his position to increase his power in the government as well as in the party. Aridor's appointment as finance minister changed the attitude in the party toward the two.

Lowering the Status

When Ezer Weizman was defense minister and heir-apparent to Begin, many eyes were turned to David Levi. He is considered the man who has the main power in the party center. It was said that he could tip the scale in a contest between Weizman and Shamir. David Levi was enjoying the status of king-maker, which was accorded him before he actually had to crown anyone. But it is not clear what his attitude is toward the succession issue, and whether he, too,

like Aridor, thinks he is a good candidate for prime minister (his supporters, unlike some of Aridor's, do not say it). The impression one gets is that Levi will be happy if in the future, too, he is looked on as king-maker. This status, of course, is linked to political developments and to Begin's decision to retire.

The leading four represent four generations. Shamir is Begin's age. Sharon is in his mid-fifties. Aridor and Levi are in their mid-forties. Aridor and Levi may choose to crown Shamir because of his age. They need a few more ministerial years to consolidate their public record. Sharon already has this credit, because of his former assignments, especially his high position in the IDF in the past and his present position as minister of defense. After an interim period of Shamir rule, they will be ready to receive the power from him.

It is clear that if Sharon succeeds Begin, Aridor's and Levi's future may be terminated, in light of the enmity between Sharon and Aridor in the more distant past, and because of Sharon's relatively young age, which puts him at the start of his political career, not to mention his excellent health. But it has already been mentioned that Levi has not said that he wishes to succeed the leader of Herut, while Aridor does have such ambitions. What will Levi do if and when Aridor competes with Sharon? Will he prefer to be Sharon's or Aridor's number two? The answer to this question, surprisingly, once again strengthens Sharon. It is less practical if the question of the succession arises during Begin's term of office. It can become more real on the eve of the elections (if Begin retires), when the Likud may well need a popular, vote-getting candidate.

The power play inside Herut and the analysis of political moves vis-a-vis the future depend on what Begin will do in the coming years. But the potential successors and their supporters cannot wait for the last minute, and they are preparing to deal with all possible developments. This preparation is not influenced by the assessment that the Herut and the entire Likud can never again be what they are under Begin. The results of the struggle inside the party may not necessarily take the winner to the post of prime minister.

9565

CSO: 4423/94

BEGIN, RULING PARTY ACT TO UNDERMINE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jan 82 pp 13, 20

[Article by Eliyahu Slepeter: "Democratic Road to Totalitarian Regime"]

[Text] There are two ways to switch from a democratic to a totalitarian or authoritarian society. One is a putsch, the sudden takeover of the government by a person or a group with the aid of the army or another powerful body. This is the kind of loss of freedom Mr Begin talked about in less troubled times, when he was afraid Ariq Sharon might surround the Knesset with tanks.

Attention and worries have always focused (and not only by the opposition) on the putsch scenario, without noticing the second, quiet, more logical scenario of "creeping autocracy," which takes over gradually, without fireworks and the thunder of guns.

Warning Lights

Many of us are not aware of the many incidents that indicate that Israel is on its way to becoming an authoritarian, if not a totalitarian, state. The warning lights are numerous, and they encompass most of the vital areas of our democratic system:

The weakness of the political system is seen in the constant attacks on the democratic order, without the parliamentary opposition having the ability to oppose these attacks.

The government no longer functions as a top echelon of party leaders who were elected by the public to act in its name and assume personal responsibility for decision making. The "leader" decides not as the final authority (which, theoretically, is his parliamentary prerogative) but as the initial decision-maker whose decision obliges the other members of the government to approve it after the fact. A good example is the system of "phone polling" of the ministers (in the past it was reserved for an emergency), in order to quickly approve something Mr Begin has already decided. A case in point was the foreign minister's answer when asked how Mr Begin decided to apply Israeli law to the Golan Heights before the government met to discuss it. Mr Shamir explained: "The prime minister knows what the ministers think."

Imposing military disciplines on civilian government officials--discussion on how Minister Sharon wants to reorganize the defense system is far from over, and there is no need to belabor the implications of his plan.

There is a growing disregard of the principles of established practice in putting members of the ruling party in key government jobs and jobs in government-owned companies. It is true that the Likud did not invent the political favors system and the placement of party people in key positions. The Alignment during its years in power had made an art out of it. But the difference between the Alignment and the Likud is becoming more and more clear. The Labor party used to choose the one person from among several who qualified for the job who was politically desirable, while the Likud picks people who are loyal to the party, without any regard for qualifications. This is a fundamental difference not only in terms of damage to the operation the new person heads, but also in terms of the ability (and the daring) of the director or the senior official to disagree with unwise decisions on the part of his superiors.

Only One Seat

An opposition that is only one seat short would, in a normal democratic system, serve as a powerful buffer against extreme or capricious decisions by the government. There is a fundamental difference between the formal rights of the majority (even a one-vote majority) and the limitations that a small majority has. Moreover, a small majority means that tomorrow, especially in the case of a coalition government, the opposition may be in power and vice versa. But when the opposition is torn from within and is powerless, the small difference of votes between itself and the government does not further its chance of becoming an alternative to the government. Rather, it strengthens the blackmail powers of the opposition partners. A small majority over a divided opposition prompts the coalition not to play close attention to the rules of the game. Hence the fact that the chairman of the Knesset uses the automatic majority to "hush and censor" the opposition leaders.

There are many forms of contempt toward the rule of law, and their common denominator is the undermining of public trust in the democratic system and the principle of equality before the law. In a situation of rule by force or chaos (or both) the time comes when people prefer rule by a "strong hand" without democracy, rather than democracy without a strong hand.

When the minister of defense says in the government session that it is not the rule of law that is being discussed when one talks about those who break the law, and when he thinks there are matters that are more important than keeping the law, one must ask to whom and to what the minister refers if not the law?

When the chief of staff lets murderers of Arab citizens go free and reduces the sentence of senior officers who are convicted of abusing their authority, and when the government is not willing to accept the recommendations of the legal advisor to reduce the powers of the chief of staff, one must worry about the attitude of the soldier toward the rule of law in the state.

Minister Above the Law

When the religiosity of a jurist becomes the yardstick for his candidacy to the Supreme Court, it is hard to stop the erosion of public trust in the judiciary system, which is still considered the stronghold of law, equality and individual liberties in Israel.

When the minister of defense cautions his colleagues in the government not to adopt decisions that the Ministry of Defense will not be willing to carry out, one must ask whether the government is above the minister or the minister is above the government.

When the ideological affiliation of law-breakers decides in the minds of the government people whether they are "wonderful boys" who fight for ideals (on the other side of the green line) or whether they are plain trespassers (on this side of the green line), ideals are cheapened and criminality is exalted.

Misguided patriotism, overt or covert, to justify wrongdoing undermines those moral values that in the final analysis are the foundation of a free and orderly society.

A prime minister who wants to go down in Jewish history as one who has prevented "Jewish bloodshed" will go down as one who has given in to violence and made a decisive contribution to breaking down the principles of law and justice in the state.

The honest, tolerant and moral Israeli accepts and does not protest, or, in most instances, does not want to know what takes place in the administrated territories. And what has remained, if anything, of the image of the "conqueror who is different from other conquerors" who was justified in the early years after the Six-Day War? The Israeli prefers not to ask himself if one can differentiate between the attitude of the authorities toward the Arabs in the territories and the attitudes of Israeli citizens toward Arab citizens in the state. "Security considerations" become a thick blanket that sometimes covers the hands as well as the eyes.

The free press has become enemy number one of the government. The printed page and the photograph become a nuisance that the government tries to destroy, and the opposition is not concerned if it is indeed destroyed, since no one knows which of the two comes out looking worse.

The credibility of the media is systematically undermined. Events that the reporters see with their own eyes and that are shown in black and white on television, are excused the next day by the official spokesmen of the government with the words, "the media exaggerates."

In the face of attempts to censor political subjects that have nothing to do with security, a system of leaks has been developed through some court reporters who are willing to reveal state secrets when the leaking makes the leaker look good. Data about our economic situation are considered secret, but the uncivilized outburst of our prime minister against the United States and its ambassador was reported in detail by the government spokesman.

The prime minister tries to turn the radio into a political propaganda tool. If the television quotes the former chief of staff, who describes his former subordinate (who is now the minister of defense) as irresponsible, the prime minister considers it a misuse of television. When the prime minister sends his aide to complain to the chairman of the radio authority, who then phones the director general who censors the legitimate news, the prime minister does not consider it wrong; he does not even admit that an attempt was made to interfere in a crude and dangerous way with the freedom of press and the right of the public to know what was said by someone who has power over people's lives.

Verbal Distortion

The weeds of totalitarianism grow fast in the cracks in the wall of democracy.

Rightist students on campus use fascist methods to silence other opinions.

The Green Patrol, which was set up to protect the environment, is used as a police force to intimidate "undesirable" minorities.

Likud politicians demand the removal of university professors and lecturers whose political opinions are not in agreement with the government.

The Hebrew language is being falsified to give words a new meaning in keeping with the ideological line. Thus, seizing property and trespassing become "settlements." The holding of hundreds of thousands of lira worth of land by land speculators in the territories becomes "redeeming the land." The radio and the television no longer use the terms "territory" or "administrated territory," only Judea and Samaria.

One does not always fall into the totalitarian hell all of a sudden, from a high cliff to a deep abyss. Sometimes one goes down there by many small steps. Israeli democracy is not threatened as much by Ariq Sharon and Menahem Begin as it is by the daily erosion of its followers, the weakness of the opposition and the indifference of the public.

9565

CSO: 4423/94

LABOR FACTION SHOWS IDEOLOGICAL AFFINITY FOR RIGHT, GUSH EMUNIM

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jan 82 p 14

[Article by Amnon Rubenstein: "The New Revisionists; Actually, There Is a Large Camp in the Labor Movement Which Is Right; Since Gush Emunim Became a Pioneering Group, the Two Seemingly Opposite Camps Have Become Ideologically Close"]

[Text] The statement of Knesset Member Ariq Nehamqin, to which he clung so vehemently, against the education of the Labor movement and in favor of religious education, caused some stir. Here a member of Nahalal, the first moshav, a bona fide spokesman of Labor agricultural settlers, attacked the education he himself received and praised religious education in discussion about major allocations to the educational institutions of Agudat Israel. Better yet, his self-afflicted party accepts this statement as a matter of course, and regards Nehamqin as spokesman of one of the legitimate new factions that sweep the Labor party toward a constant crisis.

What Nehamqin said goes against sacred principle: If the education that the Labor movement has provided is negative, and if religious education is the example, who needs the Alignment? Or does this once again mean "action," namely, those who settled this land and the working class will know better than the Agudah how to establish a religious education system. And, in any case, what socialist education is Nehamqin inveighing against? There has not been a Labor education system for a generation. Education for work in the Israeli educational system teaches the students to "work with thier eyes."

What, in effect, is the place of Nehamqin and his group in the Alignment? The fact that a few students fight against racist acts on campus? The interesting thing about Nehamqin's attack is not only that it goes against everything he is supposed to represent but that he is beating a dead horse. In a land where the stock market is the idol of the youth, where the ideal is to be a banker with an attache case, where speculation is the main topic of conversation between lessons, he rises up against the few remnants of an education system that is no longer in existence.

The new fashion of searching for Jewish roots is not embodied solely by Nehamqin but by intellectuals who pour out in DAVAR and other publications their thoughts and feelings. But Nehamqin and his friends do not draw personal conclusions from their words. They do not choose for their own children what they claim is the superior education, namely, the religious one. Those who in DAVAR preach the abandonment of Labor religion and a return to the ancestral religion do not accept the yoke of the religious commandments.

What we have here is not sincere repentance but outward objection without any personal sacrifice. Uri Zohar and his friends at least have given up Diezengoff Street and the pleasures of this world, put on prayer shawls, locked themselves up in a religious academy, broke off their ties with secular society and began to observe the commandments and to study Torah. But in the Labor Party there is no such return to religion but rather a "de luxe" religiosity, that is, have the best of both worlds, keep seeing the old friends and from time to time make a remark about longing for the religious way: live in Tel Aviv, or in Nahalal, and praise Gush Emunim; enjoy yourself while singing the praises of traditional Judaism; go to a Christian New Year's Eve party but talk about the loss of values, tradition, roots and so forth; and over a shrimp dinner at a Chinese restaurant groan about your inner struggle and laud the "knit yarmulkes."

Indeed, if we were not dealing with a matter with the most serious public implications, we could dismiss the whole thing with a few sarcastic remarks about the new "religiosity" to which some members of the Labor movement are turning with such childish indolence in a desperate attempt to find sophomoric values and a new outlet for their periodic outbursts. In effect, this is but one symptom of a deep emotional and ideological crisis that has overtaken the Labor movement in recent years. The so-called religious yearning is accompanied by a gradual rapprochement with the revisionist camp and the political and social teachings of Zeev Jabotinsky in their most distorted form, which is acceptable to the leaders of Herut.

One son of Nahalal, the late Moshe Dayan, was willing to do it bravely and publicly. He declared at the "Cinerama" convention of Rafi that he no longer believed in the cardinal principle of the Labor movement, "one more dunam and one more goat," and publicly accepted the opposite principle, which considers military power the basis of everything. He declared more than once that Begin was closer to him than many of his friends in the Alignment, and when he left his party after its defeat and joined Begin's government, it was to him a most natural step. Even when he declared his allegiance to the Labor movement, he instinctively used the English word Labor so as not to refer to the party by its Hebrew name, even as those who talk about religiosity refrain from using words like Jewish religion and commandments and the law of Moses.

The rapprochement with the traditional right did not start with Rafi. The Kibbutz Meuhad and the Ahdut Ha'avoda have also veered toward the revisionist philosophy. If there is anything today that separates this group from the Herut and the Tehiya, it is usually something marginal that conflicts with the economic interests of the rural sector rather than ideology. In the distant past, Tabenqin called the revisionists "fascists" and other such names that were in vogue in deriding the Jabotinsky movement, which did not follow the policy of the organized Jewish community under the British mandate. Now,

members of Tabenqin's family and village work against the rule of the Knesset in the sovereign state of Israel. How will his relatives define themselves now? If they are to use his terminology they are today's "separatists," under much more serious circumstances than the separatists in the time of the underground.

The vote of many members of the Labor movement in the Knesset in favor of the Jerusalem and Golan laws, and the enthusiastic support of many of them of Gush Emunim and its actions are added proof of this process.

About half of the kibbutz movement stands together with the revisionists in voting for declarative laws devoid of practical meaning, full of high sounding language that provide emotional satisfaction while weakening Israel. The great debate between this camp and the camp of Practical Zionism revolved around this very issue. The Practical Zionists argued that the deed and not the words was important and stood for a Zionism that lived in peace with the outside world.

The vote on the Jerusalem and the Golan laws was instructive in another sense. In both instances the Labor people followed the rightist initiative. In the Jerusalem law, it was Geiula Cohen's initiative, and in the Golan law, Menahem Begin's. They had no courage to initiate. Nor did they have the courage to say no to the initiative of others.

In effect, there is a large group inside the Labor camp today that for all purposes should be regarded as right. Since Gush Emunim and the religious-national camp have undertaken the mission of settling Judea and Samaria and speak in socialist-pioneering terms, there is now an ideological affinity between the two camps, which were once regarded as opposite poles.

Indeed, each of the leaders of the Labor Party, before it lost its bid for resolution, had strong ties with Gush Emunim and its supporters. The late Yigal Allon was the founder of Kiryat Arba of Rabbi Levinger. He is the one who gave them illegal weapons and thus laid the foundation for destroying the rule of law and order. Yitzhaq Rabin appointed Ariq Sharon as his advisor and confidant and praises him in his book. Shimon Peres made Prof Yuval Neeman his right arm and through him help was given to the Gush Emunim. The late Golda Meir had laid the foundation for the Alignment's turning its back on its basic values. She expressed strong feelings, against the "world," against the diffident, against those who preach morality, where Menahem Begin has a much greater talent than the leaders of the Alignment. In the final analysis, one must add that there is no great difference between Kiriat Arba and Alon Moreh, between Mrs Meir's protestations against the gentiles and Begin's outbursts. A party that sanctioned the settlements in Judea and Samaria, even when they were established illegally, quite naturally finds it hard to attack the Likud when the latter does the same thing on a larger scale and more aggressively. It is no accident that many members of the Tehiya movement come from the collective settlements of the Labor movement.

Actually, there should have been one touchstone to distinguish between the left and the right, between the people of Begin and the disciples of Ben-Gurion. This does not refer to boundaries, since there can be genuine differences on this issue among people of similar ideology, but rather the character of Israeli society. Will it be an orderly democratic society that maintains equality for all its citizens and residents and sees itself as an equal member in the family of democratic societies. This, rather than boundaries and strategic depth, is what the struggle in Israel is all about. It is over the soul and not the waistline. Will there be a large community of Arabs among us, who will not enjoy the same rights we have always demanded for ourselves? Will we consider Zionism a way of renewing the Jewish people not in the image of the hated and hating ghetto? These existential questions elicit the same answers from the rightist and revisionist wing of the Labor Party as from the heads of Herut. Better yet, while Herut is now to the left of the Alignment in populist issues of salaries and economy, supporting every demagogic social view, the rightist wing of the Alignment is to the right of the Likud in its protests against compromise, against giving in, against the withdrawal.

Not that there are not substantive differences between Labor and the right, but the real crisis afflicting the workers parties is deep and fundamental and transcends any particular leadership. Even if Labor won the election, the deep rift would not heal. As for the historical reasons for this rift--see our next article.

9565

CSO: 4423/94

BIOTECHNOLOGY SEEN MAKING ADVANCES

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Jan 82 p 21

[Article by Avraham peleg: "Scientists at Kiryat Weitzman Harness Micro-organisms to Create Medicines"]

[Text] The Czech writer Karl Capek, who coined the term "robot" predicted that these mechanical servants would be the most devoted servants of man. Capek was wrong. More devoted servants have been found. Who? You can see them only through a microscope: the micro-organisms.

By means of genetic engineering today, micro-organisms are being turned into "factories" which turn out quickly, abundantly, and cheaply, natural materials needed by man to produce medicines, chemicals, fertilizers, etc. In genetic engineering, "genetic commands" are implanted in micro-organisms; genes are isolated and transplanted within the micro-organisms. The transplanted material--which has been subjected to special treatment--begins to give orders to the host, which is the micro-organism, which in this way becomes the devoted servant of man in an industry which is now called "biotechnology."

Working with genetic material is one dramatic view in biotechnology, but the field is much broader. Biotechnology is a field in which work is done on biological processes and materials, and the application of the theoretical achievements of biology within the framework of industry.

The industrialist sees in biotechnology an economic potential of billions of dollars, while the scientists sees it as a method for producing medicines such as interferon, insulin, new energy sources, fertilizing materials for agriculture, and additional essential uses for the health and welfare of man. Today it is foreseen that biotechnology will achieve great things to the point that many believe that the 21st century will not stand under the symbol of the atom or of electronics, but rather the symbol of the enormous applications of biology.

And so, the advanced countries of the world have rushed to get on the biotechnological bandwagon. France has officially declared this industry to be a strategic one. The West German and British governments are pouring enormous capital into research in this area, with the leader being the U.S.

For a long time, the Americans put a "stick in the spokes of the wheel" of biotechnology, out of fear that work with genetic material--within the framework of genetic engineering--would lead to a "frankenstein" world in the worst case; or that it would release into the air pathogenic micro-organisms (bearing disease) which would resist known medicines, the U.S. placed a moratorium on genetic engineering, with the agreement of the scientists themselves. But the moratorium was lifted about 3 years ago, and since then biotechnology in the U.S. and the rest of the world has made increasing gains.

Today, investors are willing to invest billions in biotechnological projects. Biotechnological companies have sprouted mostly in the West. The pioneer of these companies was Genetec (Genetic Technology) in America. The British followed the American and set up Celtec (technology of the cell). The Swiss set up Biogen, the French Technesgene and Genica, and more are coming.

The scientists working in these companies are trying to create new biological organisms, and things have reached the point where an American scientist has applied for and received a patent for a new life form.... Other scientists, using these methods, have created interferon, insulin, and other medicines.

In truth, biotechnology is an old new form. It began thousands of year ago, when man learned to use the fermenting process. When he began to use preservatives, for example, he essential applied biotechnology. Even now, the fermentation industry is one of the central pillars of this branch, but to all of the age old uses have been added new and revolutionary technologies, such as genetic engineering, and an even newer area--antibodies. Monocloning is the creation, in large quantities by means of genetic multiplication, of antibodies (bodies in the immunilological system of the body, which attack foreign bodies, such as disease carriers).

Antibodies can serve as the basis for various medicines in the war on disease, and also as diagnostic materials, and as carriers of medicine to the precise affected place in the body (e.g. cancer). Until now, such materials have been extremely expensive, for their production has involved enormous work in many laboratories. But now, with genetic multiplication (cloning), it is possible to produce many antibodies from one cell, and an industrial production line can be set up to produce this material. Biotechnology enables the rapid, abundant, and cheap production of monoclonal materials.

This development--which recently began immediately after genetic engineering--has already resulted in an industry of 70 commerical companies in the world, among them giant pharmaceuticals. It is predicted that by 1985, there will be a market of \$700 million. If we add to this that in biotechnology today new methods are being developed for the production of energy, such as alcoholic fuels and biogas, we can understand why this age old branch has become a magnet for investors, scientists, and engineers at the advanced research centers of the world.

The interest of the large investors in the world has also reached Israel, which has a community of scientists of a high level and a respectable foundation of laboratories and research installations. The Hutton Co (American) has considered an investment of millions of dollars in 19 projects at the Weitzman

Institute, five of which would have to be in the field of genetic engineering (this deal has not come to fruition yet). Other foreign investors are interested in the biotechnological potential of the Weitzman Institute, at the Hebrew University, the Technion, and other higher institutions of science in Israel.

Bodies encouraging research and development are the Office of the Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and the National Council for Research and Development, of the Ministry of Energy. They are encouraging projects for the development of medicines such as interferon and hormones, multiplication of cells, fermentation processes, organic materials, fuel substitutes, etc.

In order to give a sense of Israel's potential in this field, I will note that there are about 100 companies in the world in the biotechnological field, of which 10 are in Israel. It is estimated that by the end of the decade there will be hundreds of thousands of workers throughout the world linked to these industries, and in Israel they will number 2000 by the end of the decade.

The amount of money being pumped into biotechnology in Israel also reveals how "big the deal" is \$20 million will soon be invested in two projects. Of that amount, \$10 million will be invested in the Interyeda project of the Weitzman Institute, and \$10 million will be invested in the genetic engineering project of the company of the Hebrew University. Of the total amount, \$10 million will come from foreign sources. Large sums of money will also be invested in the Lideks Company at the Technion. According to estimates \$60 million will be invested in the next few years in biotechnological projects in Israel, and a large part of that money will come from foreign investors.

In the laboratories of Interyeda, a subsidiary of Interfirm, they have already begun to produce interferon. The interferon is produced by methods of genetic engineering, and the project is to be headed by Prof Michel Rabal of the Weitzman Institute, one of the pioneers of this research in Israel. Interyeda, which is located in the scientific industrial park at Kiryat Weitzman, will also produce monoclonal antibodies for use in diagnosis.

With the encouragement of ex-president of Israel, Ephraim Katsir, and at his initiative, efforts are being made to push the development of biotechnology. Prof Katsir heads the Center for Biotechnology at the University of Tel Aviv. At the center, he hopes to develop new industrial processes, based on the vast knowledge accumulated in biochemistry, molecular biology and genetics. At the center, investigation will be made of the possibility of producing new materials by means of micro-organisms, which will have importance in agriculture, industry, and medicine. Efforts will also be made in studying the use of garbage and the production of fuels.

7075

CSO: 4423/92

MILITARY MANEUVERS BY ISRAEL FEARED

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 246, 18-24 Jan 82 p 24

[Article by Fu'ad Na'im: "Um Qays May be Israel's Next Target"]

[Text] Israel's decision to annex the Golan Heights officially, and reports that the Jewish state plans to increase the number of settlements in this Syrian territory are giving rise to speculations over what future steps the Begin government may take to consolidate its occupation of the area. Observers in Amman point to Tallat Um Qays, located on the Jordanian-Syrian-Israeli border, as the next potential strategic target of the Jewish state. Whatever the case may be it is evident to all observers that control of the hill on which the village is situated is necessary for the success of any military moves in the Golan or Galilee region. Tallat Um Qays is approximately 160 kilometers northwest of Amman and is a natural extension of the Syrian Golan Heights now occupied by Israel. The village stands 300 meters above sea level and commands the Galilee area, the Bisan [or Baysan] Valley, and Lake Tiberias [or Galilee]. Jewish settlements in this area are within one kilometer of Jordanian artillery. Furthermore, the village serves as a principal observation post of military movements in the Golans. Um Qays--a fortified military zone--also serves as a first line of defense against potential Israeli attacks against principal towns in northern Jordan. In 1969, Iraqi forces stationed here under the terms of an Arab agreement inflicted heavy casualties and material damage on the Galilee area in an artillery bombardment initiated as a response to a reprisal raid by Israeli soldiers against Palestinian commandos.

In an attempt to underscore the strategic importance of Tallat Um Qays, King Husayn rushed to the area immediately when Israeli forces invaded southern Lebanon in 1977. Military observers at that time expressed fear that the attack on southern Lebanon may be a prelude to a much wider operation aimed at encircling Damascus in a pincer movement. It was apparent to them that the second line of attack, [if such a movement were contemplated] would have to come through the Golan Valley, which is dominated by Tallat Um Qays. The strategic importance of Tallat Um Qays was underscored again during former French President Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Amman in March 1980. Accompanied by King Husayn, the French president helicoptered to the area and got a first-hand binocular view of the Galilee and Golan regions. Despite Mr d'Estaing's insistence that there be no photographers or reporters on the scene while he made his observation, the opposition press nevertheless published

a photograph of him viewing the area through a pair of binoculars. The [opposition] press used the occasion to criticize Mr d'Estaing for having consorted to observe Israel from an Arab military observation post. The Socialist Party wasted no time in describing the incident as "offensive" to Israel and in exploiting it politically against Mr d'Estaing in the May 1981 presidential election campaign.

From a historical viewpoint, Tallat Um Qays stands on the remains of Garda, one of the Greco-Roman cities of the Decapolis.

9063

CSO: 4404/255

RELATIONS WITH SYRIA DETERIORATING

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 247 25-31 Jan 82 p 21

[Article: "New Deterioration in Jordanian--Syrian Relations"]

[Text] Precisely when Arab capitals appeared to be moving toward solidarity in the wake of Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, relations between Jordan and Syria last week suffered a setback. This development became evident when the Jordanian Government made public the results of an investigation in which a Syrian diplomat, the third secretary of the Syrian Embassy in Amman, was held responsible for a bomb explosion at a store in one of Amman's exclusive neighborhoods. According to the published report, a man named Abdullah Darduq, a Jordanian citizen of Palestinian descent, entered a store in Jabal Ammaon (District No 2) and ordered a glass of beer. When the proprietor turned his back to fetch the beer, the man reportedly opened a handbag in an attempt to set a timing device on a bomb concealed in the bag. The bomb exploded, however, blinding the man's eyes and injuring the proprietor and four passers-by. According to an official Jordanian Government announcement, the man, who was treated at Husayn Military Hospital, confessed that he was working under orders from a Syrian diplomat. The announcement stated further that the diplomat in question had left Amman for Damascus after the incident.

Before the official results of the investigation were released, however, most Jordanians tended to the theory that the attack was another incident in the anti-Christian campaign being waged by Muslim fundamentalists. The fact that the store proprietor was Christian and that he dealt in alcoholic beverages gave credence to this theory. Many rumors, difficult to verify, that alcoholic beverage dealers had received threats prior to the bomb incident as well as reports of threats directed at Christian citizens also tended to strengthen this belief. The rumors were given further credibility when King Husayn, in an address to the nation on the Prophet's [Muhammad] birthday, personally and strongly condemned religious and sectarian extremism. The Jordanian monarch stressed tolerance and open-mindedness as being of the essence of Islam. "There is no place for religious or provincial extremists among us," the King said.

A responsible official in Amman said that religious frictions could compel the government to strike against the Muslim Brotherhood, which is now permitted to operate in Jordan.

A number of observers in Amman were quick to note the relatively moderate language used by Jordan's foreign minister in protesting the bombing incident to Damascus. The official memorandum expressed "regret" over the actions of the Syrian diplomat, "particularly at a time when Arab solidarity was needed more than ever." It is also noteworthy that, despite the incident, Jordan's Ambassador to the United Nations continued to work in full cooperation with his Syrian colleague on a resolution condemning Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.

9063

CSO: 4404/255

RESULTS OF HEALTH CARE SURVEY ANNOUNCED

Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 7 Feb 82 p 2

[Text] Mr Kamil al-Salih, chief of the Vital and Health Statistics Department and general supervisor in charge of research pertaining to the surveying and evaluation of the use of health and clinical services, has announced the results of a field study conducted by the Ministry of Public Health last Tuesday and Wednesday. The purpose of the study was to survey and evaluate the utilization of health and clinical services offered in primary health care centers, which are made up of clinics and complexes. The study focused on the following subjects:

Health registration and the enrollment of the citizen with his assigned primary health care center; determining the reasons why the citizen sought help from the primary health care center; sites of the primary health care centers; the preference for government health services over other health services; the adequacy of the hours of operation of the health centers; ideal times for the citizen to make use of health care; the institution of new hours of operation or retention of the current hours of operation; preference for treatment by a specific physician versus treatment by any physician available at the health center; waiting periods prior to seeing the doctor including longest waiting period and shortest waiting period; the citizen's satisfaction with services provided by the doctors working in the health centers; the citizen's satisfaction with the services provided by the nurses working in the health centers; the citizen's satisfaction with the services provided by the administrators working in the health centers; the citizen's satisfaction with the medicines provided by the health centers; referrals from the health centers to specialists.

The ministry plans to use the results along with results from another series of surveys which have been or will be conducted in the planning and preparation of grand health programs that the ministry intends to implement. The first of these programs is the preparation of a health registration system for the citizens. The research was supervised by a group of Kuwaiti specialists in cooperation with research and statistics experts from the Federal Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, United States.

The study was conducted by a team of 54 doctors from the Ministry of Public Health of the state of Kuwait along with a group of doctors from the Persian Gulf states and Yemen who participate in the field of epidemiology and health and vital statistics.

The study included 24 primary health care centers--"clinics and complexes"--selected at random. The number of individuals in the selected sample was 1,018. As of late Wednesday evening the following preliminary results had been obtained using the ministry's computer:

1. Eighty-nine percent of the users utilize the clinics and complexes assigned to them.
2. Sixty-five percent had used the health center during the month of the survey.
3. Fifty-seven percent went to the centers for new illnesses. Twenty-three percent returned for illnesses they had had treatment for previously.

Thirteen percent consulted the centers for chronic illnesses.

4. Ninety-three percent were satisfied with the siting of the clinic or complex in relation to them.
5. Ninety-five percent prefer government health services while 2.7 percent prefer to services of specializing physicians.
6. Ninety-two percent said that the hours of operation of the primary health care centers were convenient for them.
7. Thirty-seven percent of the individuals in the sample prefer to visit the clinic between the hours of 1200 and 1800.
8. Thirty percent prefer the earlier operating hours.
9. Fifty-nine percent reported that the waiting time before seeing a doctor in the clinics was less than 30 minutes.

Thirty percent reported waiting times from 30 minutes to under an hour.

10. Forty percent prefer treatment by one specific doctor.

Sixty percent prefer treatment by any doctor available.

11. Thirty percent reported that the shortest waiting times occurred between 1200 and 1500.
 12. Fifty percent reported that the longest waiting times occurred between 1500 and 2100.
 13. Ninety-three percent are satisfied with the doctors currently available.
- Seven percent were dissatisfied or had no opinion.
14. Eighty-seven percent were satisfied with the medicines offered.

Thirteen percent were dissatisfied or had no opinion.

15. Ninety-one percent were satisfied with the services offered by the nurses.

Nine percent were dissatisfied or had no opinion.

16. Ninety percent were satisfied with the administrative services in the clinics.

Ten percent were dissatisfied or had no opinion.

The sample, which was intended to include only those individuals 15 years of age and older, consisted of 1,018 individuals including 566 males and 452 females representing 55.6 percent and 44.4 percent, respectively.

With respect to the nationalities of the individuals in the sample, 53 percent were Kuwaitis, 38 percent were from other Arab countries, and 9 percent were non-Arabs. With respect to profession, 15 percent of the individuals were students at various academic levels, 25 percent were housewives, and 38 percent were government employees.

8591

CSO: 4404/274

HOUSING GRANTS TO KUWAITIS WITH NON-KUWAITI HUSBANDS DISCUSSED

Kuwait AL-TALI'AH in Arabic No 730 10 Feb 82 p 16

[Text] An official source in the Ministry of Housing told AL-TALI'AH that the Council of Ministers' decision granting government housing to Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis has begun to be implemented. He said that the ministry has opened the door to the acceptance of applications and that up to this point only 10 new applications have been submitted. Six of these applications are for low-income housing and the other four are for middle-income housing. The source said that the reason for the lack of response so far is probably because many people are unaware that this decision has been issued and that the door is open for applications. Between 2,000 and 3,000 cases will be affected by this decision. The decision includes those women who have submitted applications since 1965 and those who submitted applications prior to the issuance of the new law will not need to submit new applications. However, these individuals must check with the ministry after 15 February because a number of regulatory decisions have been submitted to the Council of Ministers and the council is currently in the process of deciding on them and will be finished by this date.

The source added: "The only conditions that must be met to obtain government housing is that the husband must work in Kuwait in either a government or private organization and that the couple must have children."

The source did not specify whether or not there was a set number of years that a couple must have been married as a condition for obtaining government housing. He said only that some regulatory decisions are currently under study.

The source also stated that only 100 houses will be distributed in a single year, 60 of them to low-income families and 40 of them to middle-income families. The applications will be processed in order of date filed beginning with 1965.

8591

CSO: 4404/274

PLAN FOR NEW DAM APPROVED

Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER in English 21 Feb 82 p 7

[Text] AN estimated \$20 million is to be spent in a bid to save water by building Oman's first recharge dam at Al Khoudh.

Planning is well ahead on the project which should be completed by the end of next year in a joint operation backed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Omani-American Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Co-operation.

The dam will be built in a tributary of the Wadi Samail near Al Khoudh village, about 50km west of Muscat. It has been designed to save water which in the past has been lost to the sea when heavy rains course through the wadi in the wake of storms.

Slowing the flow of water, the dam will allow the water to soak into the ground from where it can be pumped, boosting considerably the water supplies available for agriculture in the area.

The American firm Stanley Consultants of Iowa are the engineering consultants for the

project. They have carried out the final feasibility study and have also drawn up the final design.

Similar earth-fill dams have been constructed in other countries including Saudi Arabia but this is the first in the Sultanate.

Only Omani or American firms or joint ventures are considered for the construction contract. Prequalification forms are now being distributed by the Directorate of Water Resources and Irrigation.

The Joint Commission is helping the Government in a variety of ways, particularly with unfamiliar approaches to planning and technological problems.

Another project under consideration by the Government and the commission at the moment is technical assistance in fisheries management by offering advice and training to the Directorate of Fisheries. Other areas being explored are vocational training and health.

CSO: 4400/155

BRIEFS

ROYAL DECREES ANNOUNCED--A new Directorate General at the Ministry of Communications is to be established, according to one of the first four Royal decrees for the year 1982. The second decree authorises the Minister of Petroleum and Minerals to administer the handing over of 15 percent of the oil concession rights of Quintana International, including the 1975 oil agreement, to Oman Occidental. HM Sultan Qaboos issued four more decrees on Saturday. The first Decree approved the government budget for the year 1982. In the second, the Sultan put into force the bill which supports financial aid to the private sector involved in mining and quarrying. The third Decree re-constituted the organisational structure of His Majesty's Diwan for Protocol. According to the fourth Decree, a commercial limited liability company to be known as "Oman Oil Refinery" is to be set up. HM Sultan Qaboos issued three Royal Decrees, number 10, 11, and 12/82 on Tuesday. The first decree relates to the law governing the protection of the environment and prevention of pollution. The second decree refines and approves the ministry of electricity and water's organisational structure. The third decree upgrades a number of ministry of foreign affairs senior officials. It promotes Mohammad Hassan Ali, Salim Hassan Yousuf Macki and Ebrahim Hamoud al-Subhi to the grade of ambassador. Nazer Mohammad Ali al-Shaikh, Abdallah Saeed Abdallah, Abdallah Saeed al-Baluc I, Essa Ahmad Ali Mousa, Mahmoud Suleiman Mohammad Al-Zidgali, Mohammad Saeed Salim al-Marhoun and Ghalib Abdallah Jibran al-Yafei have been upgraded to the rank of Minister plenipotentiary. [Text] [Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 11 Feb 82 pp 1, 36]

THREE ROYAL DECREES --HM Sultan Qaboos on Tuesday issued three Royal decrees. The first decree merged the two Ministeries of Justice and Awqaf and Islamic Affairs into a single ministry and appointed Sayyid Hilal Hamad al-Sammar as the minister. It also appointed Shaikh Abdallah Ali Al-Khalili as the Under-Secretary. The second decree appointed the former minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs, Shaikh Al-Waleed bin Zaher al Hinaei, as the state adviser on interior affairs. The third decree charged the Minister of State, al Moatasim bin Hamoud bin Nasr, to preside over the Musandam Development Committee. [Text] [Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 18 Feb 82 p 2]

PORT EXPANSION PLANNED--The Ministry of Communications has chalked out a programme for the extension of Mina Qaboos to increase its handling capacity. The port is now facing constant pressure of work following the installation of container terminals. The first phase of the plan envisage construction of a deep water berth at the cost of R.O. 3 million. Contract for the berth is expected to be awarded

shortly. It will be ready in eighteen months after work begins on the project. The work will involve submersion of 14 to 16 meters long concrete cylindrical units in the water, according to details available. These units will form the foundation of a concrete slab to be used as a berth. Phase two of the plan envisages extension of the port area to the nearby coastal village of Shoutafi, which will be vacated for the purpose. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour have already drawn up plans to shift the population to a new settlement comprising solely of low cost tenements. [Text] [Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 18 Feb 82 p 1]

CSO: 4400/154

CURBS ON ALIENS SOUGHT

Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 6 Feb 82 p 3

[Text] JEDDAH, Feb. 5 — The Interior Ministry is considering a project under which it will seek certain guarantees from countries where workers are recruited, according to Interior Undersecretary Dr. Ibrahim Al-Awaji.

In a statement to *Al-Jazirah's* evening edition Thursday, Awaji said that contacts are already underway between the Kingdom and some Islamic and Arab countries in this regard.

The interior undersecretary also denied that some of the foreign workers imported by the Kingdom were ex-prisoners in their respective countries. Replying a question, Awaji described as "exaggerated" reports that densely populated countries get rid of their prisoners by sending them abroad as workers. "Encouraging their citizens to work abroad is an economic necessity for such countries. It is not in their interest to send persons with criminal records as expatriate workers," he said.

Awaji criticized the phenomenon of numerous household servants in Saudi Arabian families and placed the blame on citizens.

The official said that studies are being prepared to curb the number of foreign workers. Houses which need domestic help, cases in which ladies work outside their homes or are ill, will be allowed to import household servants, Awaji said.

Although Saudi Arabian citizens are responsible in the first place for the widespread of foreign domestic servants, the interior ministry also can not be absolved of responsibility for facilitating the import of such workers. Its objective is responding to citizens' needs, Awaji said. "But I still think the responsibility is totally the citizens'," he added.

He said that such an extensive use of domestic helpers is neither in the interests of individuals nor the public. "It increases the country's population and adds psychological, social and economic burdens," according to Awaji.

The ministry attempts to help citizens choose better workers through detailed studies of the foreign manpower present here in regard to nationalities, he said. However, he added that a certain nationality cannot be deemed to be superior and another inferior since every society has its good and bad categories.

The selection of foreign workers remains the responsibility of the citizen or the recruitment offices rather than the ministry. "I think Islamic countries are the best source for domestic helpers," Awaji said.

Instructions of the interior ministry call that female helpers should be from Islamic countries. The future trend would be to restrict import of domestic helpers to Islamic countries only, he said.

Last week, Gen. Jaber Abdul Hafeez, who is in charge of combating overstayers, said that about 11,000 foreigners without legal residence permits in the Kingdom had been deported in the recent campaigns. He said that 100 squads had been deployed in the Western Region to enforce the campaigns according to the instructions of Interior Minister Prince Naif. The squads move between Makkah, Jeddah, Taif, Madinah and other towns and villages.

He said that the campaigns "include illegal residents as well as workers found seeking jobs in towns and cities away from their sponsors."

CSO: 4400/155

PANEL PREPARES REPORT ON WESTERN PROVINCE NEEDS

Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 17 Feb 82 p 2

[Article by Maher Abbas]

[Text] JEDDAH, Feb. 16 — The committee entrusted with studying the conditions of western coast villages and Jizan area is preparing the final studies drawn from the field tour of those areas. The committee, led by Jeddah Mayor Muhammad Saeed Farsi and comprising undersecretaries of various ministries, concluded its tour of the area last week.

Requests by residents of the areas visited by the committee centered on the need to develop a modern communications network to link remote villages to the bigger towns. Such villages include Hala, Ghumaijah, Guraish, Huroub, Aiban, Tihama and Ghamed which need to be linked to Jizan, Laith, Abu Areesh, Mahail, Sabia and Qunfudah.

According to Jeddah Municipality sources Tuesday, the committee also is considering the western coast residents' requests for more clinics, easier access to pharmaceutical drugs and medical equipment, especially as malaria is a common disease in the Jizan area. The residents also requested intensive vaccination campaigns against paralysis and tuberculosis.

In agriculture, the committee is studying the supply of modern agriculture machinery favored by the residents, in addition to providing sources of subterranean water for drinking purposes.

The committee's preliminary suggestions center on the importance of developing the western coast's village population-wise rather than the standard cottage residence

popular in the area. It concentrates on establishing more rural complexes which are provided with all services to replace scattered population groupings.

The studies are expected to be finished within two weeks and then submitted to higher authorities for approval. The committee had earlier conducted several detailed studies on the problems of the western coast villages. Members of the committee include undersecretaries of health, communications, interior, finance and national economy, planning agriculture and water, municipal and rural affairs ministries.

CSO: 4400/155

FINANCIAL BACKING FOR WEST GERMANS CONTINUES

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 7, 15 Feb 82 p 5

[Text] Saudi Arabia is ready to increase its credit line to West Germany, a report from Bonn said last week. The two governments are still working out the size of the new credits.

Saudi Arabia has been advancing credit to West Germany, mainly to cover its balance of payments deficits. In 1980, the Saudis supplied Bonn with DM 5.5 billion (\$2.31 billion) as well as a large portion of total OPEC credits which amounted last year to over DM 13 billion (\$5.4 billion). But West German government circles are reported to believe that borrowings this year will be less than those of 1981.

The amount of credit will be determined by how well the West German economy performs. Last year it ran up a deficit in its balance of payments on current account of DM 23 billion (\$9.68 billion). However, government officials recently predicted that this year's deficit would be nearer "DM 10 billion than DM 20 billion."

Saudi Arabia is now West Germany's largest foreign creditor as well as its leading supplier of crude oil. The Saudis would thus appear to have considerable leverage over Bonn in their bid to acquire the West German Leopard II battle tank. But the idea of such a sale is a matter of great political delicacy in Bonn and it is not thought likely that Chancellor Helmut Schmidt could muster a majority within his ruling coalition in its favour. Meanwhile, West Germany is preparing new guidelines on arms exports, which are expected to be stricter than the old ones.

The Saudis, while not anxious to force the issue, remain confident that the deal will eventually go ahead. At least, that would seem to be the import of the Saudi Defence Minister's recent interview with the London-based *Al-Hawadess* magazine in which he stated simply that West German leaders had offered the Leopard tank to Saudi Arabia and that the offer had been accepted.

CSO: 4400/155

SAUDI ARABIA

BRIEFS

NEGOTIATIONS RESUME WITH ENI--Saudi Arabia has agreed to resume direct negotiations with ENI, the Italian state energy concern, on a crude oil supply contract. Talks on the 12.5m tonne deal were suspended two years ago following Italian press reports of rumoured irregularities in commission payments. ENI said in a statement that after intense diplomatic initiatives by the Italian government Saudi Oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani had given the go-ahead. [Text] [London 8 DAYS in English No 7, 20 Feb 82 p 41]

CSO: 4400/154

EFFECTS OF REDIVISION OF SOUTH ON NUMAYRI REGIME DISCUSSED

London AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL in English No 4, 18 Feb 82 pp 1-4

[Text]

While debate over the proposed re-division of Southern Sudan into two or three regions gains momentum, President Jaffar Nimeiri's political future hangs increasingly in the balance. His room for manoeuvre is above all constrained by the deteriorating economy, and specifically by 1) the need to assuage the Muslim Fundamentalists (AC Vol 22 No 24), who are strongly in favour of re-division of the South, 2) the difficult task of retaining the loyalty of the military and its key commanders (see page 2) and 3) the uncertainty of the strategy of prominent southern politicians and the extent to which they would ultimately support Nimeiri.

The Southern Sudan issue, it will be recalled, came to a head on 5 October 1981 when Nimeiri dissolved the Regional Assembly in Juba and dismissed Abel Alier, president of Southern Sudan, and his entire cabinet. Alier's replacement, Maj. Gen. Gasmallah Abdalla Rassas, was more or less instructed by Nimeiri to prepare the South for a referendum on the re-division issue. Since then, there has been a series of complications:—

1) Lt. Gen. Joseph Lagu (ret'd), the former Southern leader (AC Vol 22 No 24), who originally proposed in February 1981 re-division and a Southern referendum (thereby giving an important cue to Nimeiri) said at the end of last year that he favoured a referendum in only two of the South's six provinces (Eastern and Western Equatoria, inhabited by the Bari tribe). In December Lagu spent several days in Juba urging Bari leaders to demand their own autonomous region. At the same time, a large number of tee-shirts bearing the slogan "Equatoria Region Now" were distributed in Juba. Several fights broke out on the streets with opponents of re-

division, who argued that it would be unconstitutional for two provinces to determine the whole future of the South.

Subsequently, allegations of electoral fraud abounded following National Assembly elections in the two Equatoria provinces. In one constituency it was reported that 6,000 votes had been cast for Lagu and his advocacy for re-division even though the constituency possessed only 4,000 registered voters.

2) From November onwards, it appears that Rassas' enthusiasm (in the expedient sense) for re-division diminished. Initial evidence was at a rally in Juba in November, when he a) angrily shouted down youths who were noisily displaying pro-re-division slogans, and b) attempted (unsuccessfully) to delete pro-re-division statements from a speech delivered at the same rally by the commissioner of Eastern Equatoria, Mr Ohira. Whatever Rassas' personal convictions, the public perceived a change of strategy.

3) Members of the supposedly neutral government in Juba began to take sides. Othwan Dak, minister of culture and information, Philip Obang, minister of education and guidance, Nicholas Obwoya, minister of housing and public utilities, all spoke out openly for re-division. Maj. Gen. Joseph Kwol, minister of cooperatives, commerce and supply, Maj. Gen. Andrew Nakur, minister of administration, police and prisons, and Dr Lawrence Wol Wol, minister of finance and economic planning, expressed strong reservations about it.

4) The arrest at the end of December and beginning of January of 21 southern politicians on charges of forming a political party — the *Council for the Unity of Southern Sudan* (CUSS) — temporarily paralysed further political manoeuvre over re-division and dramatically increased tension between

North and South. It had been rumoured for some time prior to the arrests that a group of southern politicians were about to present themselves as an alternative to the two ex-officio leaders (Alier and Lagu, although Alier himself may well be most sympathetic to CUSS) of the two southern power blocs, the Dinkas and the Afars. But a written statement released by CUSS on Christmas day emphasised both the re-division issue and, to touch a raw nerve,

Nimeiri's constitutional powers as president.

Nimeiri also received insistent reports from his security service that CUSS had foreign financial backing. It was alleged for instance that **Samuel Aru Bol** (former vice-president of the *High Executive Council* (HEC) of the South), deputy chairman of CUSS, had been found with a large sum of money on his return from a trip to Nairobi. Aru said that it was gambling winnings. In fact Aru Bol has been closely watched for several months by the security service, which was anxious to monitor his suspected Iraqi connections. **Clement Mboro**, CUSS chairman, was likewise reported to have been in possession of a considerable sum. It was suggested that some of the money had come via Libya from Nimeiri's longstanding rival, **Sherif el Hindi**, who died in Athens in January.

5) The dissolution on January 24 of the policy-making bodies of the SSU, the simultaneous dismissal of first vice-president Gen. **Abdel Magid Hamid Khalil** (also minister of defence, C-in-C of the army and secretary-general of the SSU) and the retirement of 22 army officers led not least to speculation that Nimeiri suspected a coup in the making. Although Nimeiri and Magid agreed that most schools and universities should be closed following country-wide riots (ostensibly over the 62.5% increase in the price of sugar), Magid wanted a) more power for the army, and b) a swift re-opening of the schools and universities. Nimeiri wanted neither.

Southern fears

Although five of its leading members¹ are still in detention in Khartoum, CUSS is preparing a campaign for the referendum which is now scheduled to be held in all six southern provinces in April.

We summarise below the main reasons given by CUSS to justify its creation.

- Nimeiri and Lagu have united to demand the dissolution of the Addis Ababa Agreement² by dividing the South into two or three autonomous regions, contrary to a) the national constitution and b) the Southern Provinces Regional Self-Government Act of 1972 and c) the wish of most Southerners.

- The dissolution of the National Assembly foreshadows the reduction of Southern representation in the Assembly to below one fifth of the votes, and consequently the ability of

Northerners to pass resolutions (to divide the South) with the required majority of more than three quarters of the Assembly vote.

- The dissolution of the Regional People's Assembly and the government elected by it is "a provocative act designed to outrage Southerners and to install a government that can be directed at will by the President of the Republic. There is no guarantee that elections and the referendum, if conducted, will not be rigged".

- The growing possibility that Nimeiri will divide the South by decree, irrespective of the result of a referendum.

Nimeiri does not like to be challenged openly. He has permitted a certain amount of criticism of his administration but has been very sensitive about any mention of his political powers. For instance, the creation of new regions in Northern Sudan was almost put off following disagreement between Nimeiri and the people of the regions. Nimeiri wanted to appoint the governors of the regions himself while the local population wanted to elect its own leaders. Eventually Nimeiri reluctantly agreed to a compromise whereby the Regional People's Assemblies and the SSU jointly selected 3 candidates, permitting Nimeiri to appoint one of his own choice. Darfur region, for one, may well insist on choosing all its candidates.

The HEC and the Peoples' Regional Act of 1980, it will be recalled, were actually worked out by **Natale Olwak**, Joseph Lagu's minister of administration, coordination and legal affairs, when Lagu found himself in dispute with the Regional People's Assembly two years ago. (Lagu, in an extraordinary meeting of the Regional People's Assembly — chaired by him — dismissed the entire hierarchy of the Assembly in July 1979). The Assembly speaker, who was Clement Mboro, and others challenged the move. A few months later Nimeiri used the powers Natale Olwak had drafted for him to dissolve the Assembly and consequently the HEC. Few people raised an outcry at the time.

Post Mortem on the SSU

The committee which Nimeiri set up in mid-January to reform the SSU has grown from 41 members originally to 144 — an increase which reflects Nimeiri's need to assuage as many political groups as possible, including the army.

He blamed the old SSU for the country's administrative collapse and particularly for its failure to explain the reasons for the economic reforms, introduced in November, to the general public. (It was the IMF-inspired programme of devaluation, removal of subsidies and commodity price rises which led to the riots in Khartoum and a number of provincial centres

in early January). Despite the SSU's obvious incompetence, like Libya it is to a large extent a timely scapegoat.

Ten years ago the concept of the SSU, modelled on Egypt's Arab Socialist Union, was reasonable enough. The SSU was designed as a national party to break through sectarian divisions (basically between the pro-Egyptian Unionist party and its religious constituency, the Khatmiyah sect, on the one hand, and the anti-Egyptian Umma party with its religious base of support, the Ansars, on the other) which had bedevilled Sudanese political life since independence in 1956. In its earliest years, some of the best brains in Sudan were prepared to devote considerable time to a party which might have changed the political status quo in Sudan.

But Nimeiri appears to have found the divide of Sudanese politics too ingrained. Although most former political leaders were either in exile or in prison, he had to invite them back into the political mainstream in 1977. The SSU never recovered from the tensions which were set up in the process. The old guard of the SSU, secular radicals grouped round secretary-general Maj. **Abel Gasim Mohammed Ibrahim**, strongly resented the return to political life of sectarian leaders such as **Sadiq el Mahdi**, head of the Ansars. In that battle of wills, Maj. **Abel Gasim** lost, and the SSU with him. But after the Major was removed from office in 1979, **Sadiq** declined to take the initiative in reforming the SSU. He made some suggestions but his general attitude seemed to be that the Nimeiri system was doomed. **Sherif el Hindi**, leader of the *Unionist Party* in exile, declined even to return to Sudan to participate in the National Reconciliation exercise (though some of his followers did discreetly take up positions).

With neither the Unionists nor the Ansars really involving themselves in the SSU, the party became a forum for squabbling between the Muslim Brotherhood (which stepped into the politico-religious vacuum left by the other two parties) and the die-hard, often Marxist-orientated, SSU bureaucrats on the other. It led eventually to a show-down between "conservatives" and "radicals" late last year (AC Vol 22 No 24) and the sacking of such long time SSU figures as **Khalifa Khogali**, assistant secretary for organisations.

By the end of last year, the SSU was hardly functioning. Nimeiri remained in office as a result of the support of a loose but not necessarily long-standing coalition of the Muslim Brotherhood (represented in his cabinet by the powerful attorney-general, **Dr. Hassan al Turabi**, and the interior minister, **Ahmed Abdel Rahman Mohamed**), the army, top businessmen

GENERALS ON THE MOVE

Scarce promotion prospects have caused a lot of frustration in the Sudanese army, which has a notoriously rigid promotion system: an officer can stay in a certain position for a fixed time before being either promoted or retired (often prematurely). A Major-General has four years of duty, a Lieutenant-General three years and a General two years. As Field Marshal **Nimeiri** is above this arrangement.

The sacking of **Abdel Magid** and the retirement of 22 other officers was not therefore entirely unexpected. They had all fallen into the time-limit trap, including the young and respected chief of staff, Lt. Gen. **Ezzel Din Ali Malik**. But the timing of the retirements was surprising. The day before, **Magid** had led a high-ranking army delegation to see **Nimeiri** to warn him of the instability in the country.

Several promotions are now awaited. The obvious posts to watch are those vacated by **Abdel Magid** and **Ali Malik**. It should be noted that the Sudanese army system does not provide for the creation of new posts to solve embarrassing personnel problems. Hence there is now a slot for one new General and two Lieutenant-Generals. Normally one of the existing Lieutenant-Generals would move up to become General. But since at present there are no Lieutenant Generals (even the deputy minister of defence, Lt. Gen. **Omer Abul Hassan**, has been retired), **Nimeiri** can be expected to be Field Marshal and General for some time.

Maj. Gen. **Abu Kodos**, who has a reputation for tough efficiency, will probably fill one of the Lieutenant-Generalships as chief of staff. One of the two deputies to **Ali Malik** (ex-chief of staff), Maj. Gen. **Yousif Ahmed Yousif** (in charge of logistics), will probably become the second Lieutenant-General. **Yousif** has for some time been recognised as one of the more frustrated and ambitious officers. **Ali Malik's** other deputy, Maj. Gen. **Sowar Dahab** (in charge of operations) will either remain where he is or move to another office of the same rank, although his time limit runs out fairly soon.

Those senior officers already retired will be appointed to prestigious positions such as ambassadors and directors of corporations. **Nimeiri** will presumably find them jobs as soon as possible. (Last year in April the retired and disgruntled Lt. Col **Saad Bakr** tried to overthrow the government). But **Abdel Magid** is a problem. Since his only wish is to run the army, **Nimeiri** may have to take the risk of leaving him in the cold. We understand that he was recently placed under house arrest in Khartoum ●

and a dwindling handful of southerners. The Muslim Brotherhood connection was emphasised in December when, despite declarations by **Nimeiri** that he intended to raise commodity prices, the University of Khartoum, usually a hotbed of political agitation, remained fairly calm. Yet when university vice-chancellor, **Dr. Omer Beilel**, refused to pay undergraduates the cost of their travel home over the New Year, the Muslim Brotherhood-dominated Students' Union caused a surprising fuss. The Muslim Brotherhood's strategy is evidently to allow students to let off steam over minor matters but to avoid embarrassing **Nimeiri** by demonstrating about the serious shortages in the now bankrupt economy. When pent-up frustrations did finally break out in politically motivated violence, following the raising of the price of sugar on January 1st, it was

the secondary school students who led the mobs. Although some university students followed suit, leading to the closure of Khartoum and Wad Medani's four main centres of higher education, again the Muslim Brotherhood managed to deflect criticism from Nimeiri. This shoring-up process is unlikely to last for much longer.

To further complicate the political balances, the urban population is beginning to experience some of the less vigorous but still unpalatable Islamic codes which the Muslim Brotherhood wants to pursue progressively. Since the beginning of the year, for example, the sale and consumption of alcohol have been prohibited in Omdurman, one of the three cities of Khartoum and sometimes described as the Sudanese capital of Sudan. Omdurman citizens have expressed their displeasure at being added to the growing list of dry areas of Sudan, which now include Kassala, Southern Darfur and Red Sea provinces. Muslim Brotherhood unpopularity could foreshadow the return of Sadiq el Mahdi, a staunch Brotherhood opponent.

The army connection took a sharp knock in mid-January with the sacking of Gen. Abdel Magid, who among other things, might have had too close a link for Nimeiri's comfort with the western Ansar tribe. But the army remains firmly in the driving seat, not least in the committee to reform the SSU, which contains over a dozen serving officers, including as its secretary a rising if reticent star of Sudanese politics, Col **Awad Malik**, who was Abdel Magid's right-hand man.

Well-known businessmen such as **Fath al Rahman Beshir** are also on the committee. The new finance minister, **Ibrahim Moneim Mansour** (the son of **Moneim Mansour**, who was one of the most powerful religious leaders in the western region) is himself a highly successful businessman, even though he was forced to resign somewhat ignominiously in 1975 after a National Assembly investigation into his proposals to set up monopoly state trading companies. Another business potentate now firmly attached to Nimeiri's ranks is the former managing director of the *Kenana Sugar Company*, **Bashir Waghie**, now minister of industry.

Much of the business community owes allegiance to the *Unionist Party*. But rather than seeking to capitalise on the death of its one-time leader, Sherif el Hindi, the bulk of the Unionist party now seems to be throwing its weight more positively than before behind Nimeiri. The Sherif faction of the party has meanwhile been discredited by the antics of its

leaders in seeking to parade El Hindi's body in Tripoli and Baghdad before bringing it to rest in Khartoum. The faction's current leader, **Ahmed Zein**, does not enjoy much support. If business in general backs Nimeiri, it has identified him with the privileged in the minds of the Sudanese people. Corruption in business circles is widespread, and some of the people most openly talked about are close to Nimeiri.

The SSU reform committee is continuing its deliberations on the political future of the country. Nimeiri has said it can recommend his resignation but the two things it cannot call for are either the complete dissolution of the SSU or the creation of a multi-party political system. Whether this makes the committee's brief too narrow remains to be seen. The answers should shortly be available.

Footnotes

1. Of the 21 arrested, five are still in detention in Kober prison, Khartoum: **Clement Mboro**, **Samuel Aru Bol**, **Joseph Oduho** and **Martin Majir** (both former regional ministers) and **Michael Wal**, a former member of the Regional Assembly.

2. The agreement, signed in 1972, provided for the autonomy of the six southern provinces, the establishment of a Regional People's Assembly in Juba, which would be represented in the National People's Assembly in Khartoum, and a High Executive Council (for the South) which would be presided over by the national vice president ●

ALLEGED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST NUMAYRI

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 7 Feb 82 pp 1, 14

[Text] Early yesterday morning, a group of Sudanese soldiers armed with machine guns attacked the residence of Sudanese President Ja'afar Numayri in an apparent assassination attempt aimed at the president himself. This attempt was the culmination of an outbreak of popular unrest that has been going on since the beginning of the year in protest against economic austerity measures. The authorities have responded to this activity with a violent campaign of repression that has left many individuals dead.

At 0100 yesterday morning, while Numayri was in his home which is located in an area in which senior Sudanese army officers also reside, members of a five-man military patrol led by a sergeant suddenly opened fire with their machine guns on the rear entrance of Numayri's house in an attempt to take it by storm.

The group clashed with the guards from the home of Deputy Minister of Defense Fathi Abu al-Hasan, which is located near the presidential palace. In this encounter, three of the attackers were seriously wounded and are believed to have died as a result. The fate of the two others is not known.

Several of the officers who reside in the area hurried outside their homes while central security and army intelligence forces surrounded the place and began a widespread combing operation covering all the houses of the area in a search for possible accomplices of the attackers.

The combing operation encompassed all the houses in the area with no exceptions and resulted in the arrest of a large number of citizens, including even some servants working in the homes of officers.

Later, all officers of the security and intelligence forces were summoned to their posts in a move that clearly reflected the authorities' fear that the attackers might have other accomplices who were planning to stage another operation. This fear was also apparent in the large-scale combing operation in the attack area.

Sudanese intelligence officers interrogated the arrested individuals throughout the day yesterday until a special interrogation committee was formed last

night under the leadership of deputy commander of the security forces Lt Gen Kamal Hasan Ahmad with other officers making up the membership.

Lieutenant General Ahmad is the deputy of Lt Gen 'Umar al-Tayyib, vice president and official in charge of security. The vice president is leaving Khartoum today for Nairobi to take part in meetings of the "Committee of Ruler," a group appointed by the OAU and charged with solving the crisis in the Western Sahara.

Official circles here are inclined to believe that the attack on the home of Numayri is something bigger than just an operation carried out by five soldiers on their own volition. They say that this is the reason for the formation of an interrogation committee at so high a level.

It should be pointed out that an evident struggle emerged recently between Numayri and his first vice president and minister of defense, 'Abd-al-Majid Hamid Khalil, just after the popular uprising worsened. Numayri concluded this struggle in his favor by divesting Khalil of all his political and military positions.

Observers viewed this measure as a direct blow to the army, since 'Abd-al-Majid enjoys the support of wide circles within the army and the measure follows the dismissal of more than 250 officers of various ranks.

All of this must remain in the realm of speculation until the following questions are answered: Who carried out the operation? Who was backing them? Was this operation limited to five individuals or was it linked to some other individual or group? Was the operation aimed solely at assassinating Numayri or was there another operation which was to follow?

Other Arrests

In another development, press agencies in Khartoum reported yesterday that the Sudanese authorities arrested three senior officials of one of the oil companies. These officials were described as "having been implicated in the bottlenecks in the supply of gasoline and oil products that have recently plagued Sudan."

The Sudanese newspaper AL-SAHAFAH reported that the police uncovered serious violations and widespread corruption and that investigations had proved that a group of state employees were diverting additional quantities of gasoline and other petroleum products in return for a specified price.

The newspaper added that these employees set the price at 700 pounds for each additional 1,000 gallons of these products.

Sudan has recently experienced violent clashes between the citizens and police forces caused by the lack or severe shortage of basic commodities in the markets and the rising prices of other goods--particularly sugar--as a result of the economic austerity program announced by President Numayri.

Yesterday, the Egyptian Middle East News Agency spoke of "significant economic developments" witnessed by Sudan as a result of Numayri's program. The news agency, which was the only source to publish this report, did not offer any justifications for these developments, which it described as having "surprised observers."

The news agency referred to a report from its correspondent in Khartoum that the Sudanese pound rose sharply relative to most foreign currencies yesterday in what was described as a "surprising development."

The news agency said that the pound rose 20 piasters, or 14.5 percent, relative to the American dollar and 5 piasters, or 13 percent, relative to the Saudi riyal.

The agency added: "The foreign currency market was very active and many individuals rushed to get rid of the foreign currencies they had been holding while the demand for Sudanese pounds rose sharply."

The news agency attributed this rise to "significant economic developments following Numayri's announcement of his plan and the subsequent agreement on the part of the IMF, the World Bank, and a number of Western and Saudi states to offer Sudan an emergency loan of \$550 million, half of which will be received this week."

In another report from Cairo, the news agency said that the coming months "will bring practical and intensive activity in integration projects between Egypt and Sudan."

The news agency said that a meeting among the ministers of irrigation, finance, and planning of the two countries will be held in March. This will be followed by a meeting among Egyptian and Sudanese businessmen "to form a working unit that will assist in carrying the integration projects from the level of governmental cooperation to the popular level involving the citizens of both countries."

8591

CSO: 4504/204

INFORMATION MINISTER DISCUSSES GOLAN ANNEXATION

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Feb 82 p 3

[Interview with Syrian Minister of Information Ahmad Iskandar: "Syria's Constant Option is the Arab Future," by SAWT FILASTIN, date and place not specified]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH is republishing the following interview with Information Minister Professor Ahmad Iskandar, which appeared in the monthly magazine SAWT FILASTIN, in which he discusses a number of current political subjects. He stressed the fact that Syria will not be dragged into positions contrary to its goals. He said that Syria has not disengaged from the Zionist enemy, since Palestine was occupied, and that Israeli aggression is aimed directly at us, whether the shells fall on South Lebanon, in Golan or on the West Bank.

The following is the text of the interview:

[Question] Syria's pan-Arab role makes it the center of attraction for pan-Arab action. What is your view of the current Arab reality?

[Answer] In the Arab reality, Syria represents the sword of the Arabs and their psychic force. Consequently, standing as a bulwark against the Zionist, imperialist aggression.

Arab solidarity has been and still is one of the constants in pan-Arab action and Arab strategy, because the battle is against pan-Arab soil. It is also in the political analysis, pan-Arab. Syria, with this stance, attracts all those Arabs who believe in the need to liberate occupied Arab territory and who have the will to work on behalf of liberation no matter what the sacrifice or how high the cost. Equally, Syria represents, through its stance and pan-Arab principles, the true adversary against the imperialist and Zionist reality, with all that their plots encompass. Therefore, it was said of Damascus that it is the future of the Arabs, and no Arab can assume a hostile stance against Syria, unless he is opposed to the liberation and against the pan-Arab future.

[Question] Some observers consider that Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's visit to Moscow was in the context of international political pressure on Syria's part, with regard to the decision to annex Golan. Is this true, and can you evaluate the visit within any framework?

[Answer] Comrade 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's recent visit to Moscow was in the context of the existing strategic friendship between Syria and the Soviet Union, in the course of which consultation took place with the Soviet leadership about the new developments in the area in the wake of the Israeli decision to apply Israeli law to the occupied part of Golan. I can confirm that that visit was specific and successful.

[Question] After the American veto, it became clear that Syria's only option was war, because of the continued Israeli intransigence on the one hand, and American collusion with Israel, which has prevented implementation of the Security Council resolution to dissuade Israel from its Golan annexation decision, and prevented imposition of sanctions.

[Answer] Regarding a state of war, Syria has not disengaged with the Zionist foe since Palestine was occupied. Syria's option has always been the Arab future, for which it prepares militarily, politically and economically, since power in the true and full meaning of the word, is not limited to one thing. On the contrary, it calls for a great number of factors.

In this sense, Syria is a strong country, strong in its economy, people, party, armed forces, will and pan-Arab principles. We are making progress on all levels and in all areas, struggling on behalf of liberating the occupied territory and regaining our usurped rights. Syria, in the words of our leader Hafiz al-Asad, is neither frightened nor afraid. Syria is a country that holds fast to its pan-Arab principles. No one will forcibly drag us into positions that are incompatible with what we want. This is what our leader has stressed, and this is what in fact we shall do. We have confidence in ourselves, a confidence that does not lead us into deception, but makes us move into the future with clear vision and a will that will not bend before obstacles.

Accordingly, we believe that the future belongs to those fighters who strive for it.

[Question] Can you say that the decision to annex Golan has added a new factor to disturb the strategic equilibrium to Israel's advantage?

[Answer] The strategic balance between us and the Zionist enemy was out of kilter before that, thanks to American encouragement and unlimited American military assistance to Israel. This has put a number of matters on Syria, which has made it necessary for us to expedite our capacity for action, in order to correct the balance of power in the area.

The strategic equilibrium, in our conviction, must depend, first of all, our self-defense forces, and then on the participation of our brother Arabs, standing at our side, defending themselves and the Arab future. It also requires relations constantly controlled by strategic premises with the Soviet Union and the rest of the Eastern bloc nations. Since the October war, important progress has been made along this path.

[Question] It is rumored now that there is an Israeli scenario to attack South Lebanon. This would also be aimed at Syria. In the event Israel carries out this attack, what would be the Arab-Syrian reaction to that?

[Answer] Syria always feels its pan-Arab responsibility toward every inch of soil anywhere in the Arab World. Israeli aggression is directly aimed at us, whether the shells fall in South Lebanon or Golan or the West Bank. In the past, we have made efforts. We will continue to stand beside our Lebanese and Palestinian brothers.

7005

CSO: 4404/293

PEOPLE'S CREDIT BANK ACTIVITIES DISCUSSED

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 5 Feb 82 p 6

[Interview with Najib Ma'srani, director of the People's Credit Bank, al-Khandaq branch, by Mahmud Safwat Kiyali: "27 Million for People's Credit in Aleppo This Year", date and place not specified]

[Text] The branches of the People's Credit Bank are facing increased pressure by citizens wanting to take advantage of these loans to meet emergency needs. Through this interview, we are aiming at clarifying people's credit resources in Aleppo and at identifying the difficulties and requirements.

We questioned Najib Ma'srani, the director of the People's Credit Bank, al-Khandaq branch.

[Question] What loans were made in 1981, and are there positive developments in this field?

[Answer] Loans made in 1981 totalled 5647, with a capital investment of SL23,383,300. The size of the investment and number of loans constantly increase each year.

[Question] What are the bank's expectations for 1982?

[Answer] Our 1982 expectations are that investments will total 100 percent.

[Question] What is the amount of funds allocated for your branch in 1982?

[Answer] SL27 million has been earmarked as a credit plan for 1982.

[Question] Is there any growth in the size of deposit balances from one year to another?

[Answer] The size of deposits in the bank increases each year, in addition to the number of depositors.

[Question] What was the bank's profit for 1981?

[Answer] The final balance has not been finished, but it is expected that the net profit for 1981 will exceed SL500,000.

[Question] What are the obstacles to doing your job?

[Answer] The bank's headquarters is the equivalent of a residential building. If this building was sufficient for its purpose when it was built 10 years ago, it is now inadequate. Anyone can see with his own eyes the severe overcrowding. The main room is no more than 4x3 meters. We are in dire need of a new fully-equipped headquarters to fulfill all the citizens' banking and credit requirements.

Moreover, the bank needs at least four more officials, especially for the credit department, which includes the portfolio, processing, maturing paper and follow-up. The size of the operation is no longer commensurate with the present number of officials. This limits the bank's activities and its ability to fulfill all the loan applications that are submitted and to process that in the shortest time possible, so that the applications will not pile up or even at times be prevented from reaching the people.

[Question] Some time ago, the bank raised the ceiling to SL10,000 but then reduced it again to 4,000. What were the reasons for that?

[Answer] The bank branch operates in accordance with instructions and the credit plan of the General Office in Damascus. No branch can make judgements or self-decisions and carry them out.

[Question] Damascus recently specifically authorized credit branches to pay telephone and water bills. Why doesn't the Aleppo branch comply with this?

[Answer] The matter of recording telephone and water bills has been under study for nearly 3 years. After a review by the Northern Province Electricity Board and the Aleppo Water Board, a field study, and letters exchanged with the General Office in Damascus in this regard, we reached a conclusion that implementation would require, at the least, a bank organization with no less number of employees than any existing bank in the city of Aleppo. Bear in mind that the number of people participating in both water and electricity services exceeds tens of thousands. We see no objection to carrying out any proposal by which the bank could offer new services to the public, on condition that that be serious and objective, and that its implementation not cause any stumbling block that would have negative repercussions or that could fail. The matter requires objective study and an organization capable of successfully carrying out this task, especially since it is a new experience for banks.

[Question] Are there any new instructions to be applied this year?

[Answer] Yes. New instructions have been issued, including granting the branches authority to loan a person SL4,800 for 18 months. Anything over this amount would be referred to the General Office in Damascus along with all documentation for a direct decision.

7005

CSO: 4404/293

FEMALE ACTIVIST DISCUSSES WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Kuwait AL-RAY AL-'AMM in Arabic 4 Feb 82 p 4

[Interview with Muna al-Lababidi in Kuwait by Nahid Qabbani; date of interview not given: "A Brief Conversation with the Wife of an Official to Get to Know Syrian Women: Kuwaiti Women Have an Arab and an International Outlook--Why Do They Not Have the Right to Vote?! Women in Syria Are Completely Equal to Men Under the Law As Far As the State Is Concerned"]

[Text] Nahid Qabbani wrote: There is no doubt that women have struggled throughout history all over the world to achieve a suitable place in society and to obtain their rights which are guaranteed by law and religion...

They have struggled in some countries to obtain their rights from societies which do not recognize these rights...

Any victory women achieve in an Arab country is considered a victory for her sisters in the other Arab countries...for the social structures are similar in these countries, encompassing language, religion, goals and destiny.

Today, on the occasion of the Arab Parliamentary Conference...we met with Mrs. Muna al-Lababidi on her first visit to Kuwait. Ms al-Lababidi is the wife of Dr Hassam al-Khatib, the Assistant Secretary General of the Arab Parliamentary Union, professor in the College of Arts at Damascus University and member of the Arab Writers' Union.

Ms al-Lababidi is a working woman...she is the director of a library in the Higher Science Council, a member of the Syrian General Women's Federation, a member of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society and a mother of three children, ranging in age from 1 to 3 years old.

Imagination and Reality

Our conversation with Ms Muna al-Lababidi was about the woman who is a mother and the wife of an official...and about Syrian women and the rights they have obtained...and about Arab women and their role in building a foundation for Arab unity and the importance of work in society.

Because this was Ms al-Lababidi's first visit to Kuwait, we had to ask her before anything else her opinion and impressions of what she has seen in this hospitable country. She said:

"I was pleased by what I saw in every respect and in all areas which were available to me during my short visit. I used to hear about Kuwait and tried to picture it in my imagination, but this picture never approached what I have actually seen...Kuwait's culture and architecture are equal to that of Europe ...in general, the conference was organized well and successfully, the program was comprehensive and the delegations were cared for quite well. It was also clear that the Kuwaitis who were in charge of activities during the council sessions were in general highly qualified, but unfortunately, I did not meet the women of Kuwait to be able to get to know them."

Responsibility

[Question] Do you believe that the wife of an official must have a certain personality to be able to help her husband?

[Answer] Of course...the wife of an official must be a responsible person and accept the responsibilities that fall to her. She must know how to create a suitable atmosphere in the home for her husband, not leaving him tied down with responsibilities. At the same time, she must be able to carry out any role her husband's work demands, whether in the home or outside. The difficulties which the wife of an official faces sometimes result when the woman cannot bear responsibilities, and therefore, these responsibilities become a burden to her, and she is a burden to her husband.

Influencing Decisions

[Question] Can the woman--the wife of an official--influence her husband's opinion when it comes to making a decision?

[Answer] I do not think that she can...I have heard this opinion from many wives of officials. The woman can share in making decisions when she becomes aware and understands the nature of her husband's work...besides, I think the husband helps the woman, taking her by the hand through mutual understanding and cooperation.

[Arab] Unity and Inter-marriage

[Question] Because you are married to a Palestinian...do you think that women can play a role in advancing true Arab unity?

[Answer] This is a very logical idea, since through inter-marriage, cultures, environments and civilizations come together...but I believe that women have a role in uniting the Arabs because they have built strong women's organizations in the Arab world and have the opportunity to hold Arab women's meetings...I believe that this is a very useful factor in uniting the Arabs, especially since when they appear at such international meetings, they represent Arab women in general, not their countries and nationalities.

Women in Syria

[Question] Could you give us an idea of the status of women in Syria in general?

[Answer] Women in Syria have attained numerous high positions, in that we have 12 members on public councils representing most of the governorates. Through their membership on the public councils, they have made numerous gains, the most important of which are the following:

1--Limiting second marriages and divorces, since these now require the approval of the appropriate judge.

2--Increasing the number of years that the divorced mother has custody of her child by 2 years and simplifying an extension when there is nothing that would keep the mother from caring for her child. The legal number of years that a divorced mother could care for her son was 5 and for her daughter the figure was 7 years...now the mother can have custody of her child until he or she reaches maturity if she proves that she is fit for this role, does not remarry and the child wishes to stay under her care.

3--Giving a woman the right to collect child support if her husband dies or compensation if her husband is ill or unable to work. This is within her rights if she is a working woman.

Besides the public councils, Syrian women have gone into numerous fields. They are in the ministries, on local administrative councils, in the diplomatic corps and in university education...all this was achieved through proving their abilities and actually being on the job. These steps are the result of the rise in women's educational levels, especially in universities, where the percentage of women in some science colleges such as pharmacology has reached 75 percent and in the arts and language branches has reached 50 percent.

Benefits for the Working Woman

[Question] Does the government offer benefits for the working woman?

[Answer] One of the most important benefits which the government offers to the working woman is day nurseries in all governorates for children from 2 months to 3 years of age under the auspices of the General Women's Federation, where the children of working mothers are cared for in exchange for a symbolic amount. Nurseries have also been set up for children from 3 to 6 years old who have not started to attend school.

Working women also have the right to take two months maternity leave following the birth of their babies with full pay followed by one month at half pay.

Furthermore, women and men are completely equal under the law as far as the state is concerned.

[Question] What means do you use to serve women and society?

[Answer] Through my work as a library director--about 80 percent of the library directors in Syria are women--I try to highlight women's roles in cultural affairs.

Through my work in society, I take part in any activities such as exhibitions or organized campaigns which concern women.

Through my instinctive, natural work as a mother and educating my children, I can implant the general educational principles which I believe in. First of all, I am an example to them through what I do, whether it is good or bad. I can also add my special understanding of equality and justice, which must surround a boy and girl from the time they first begin to grow by making them take the same responsibilities and have the same duties and by giving them the same care, love and attention. This way they will grow up not discriminating, since such behavior becomes a part of their personalities and they will behave accordingly in the future, in keeping with the kind of day-to-day life for which we strive. This is true since building the child's personality starts from his earliest training in the home, and we as mothers carry the responsibility for many of society's problems.

Juggling Responsibilities

[Question] How can you juggle your responsibilities as a mother, the wife of an official, a working woman and an active woman in public life?

[Answer] The idea of working requires strong support from the husband. If he is convinced that his wife should work, things will be easier for her and she can balance her responsibilities because she is relaxed and gets true cooperation from her husband in her work and duties as a mother...however, to expand her work in society, she must have extra help to bear some of the burdens of the home and to take care of the children while she is away from home after working hours...as long as she is away for a worthwhile social purpose, she will be giving her time, even at her children's expense, for important results. Anything else is not worth sacrificing her children's rights.

She Wanted to Meet Kuwaiti Women

[Question] At the end of our meeting is there any comment you would like to add?

[Answer] I wanted to meet Kuwaiti women up close during my visit to Kuwait, but because they are not involved in parliamentary activities, and because I was in this hospitable country such a short time, I did not have any contact with Kuwaiti women through the conference.

I hear and read from a distance about the activities of Kuwaiti women in all fields of public life; their concerns are those of Arab women in all our sister countries. Therefore, I expected to find them in this field also.

I was also surprised to know that Kuwaiti women do not have the right to vote. If Kuwaiti women have both an Arab and an international outlook, why are they not allowed to vote, since women in most of the other Arab countries have even been elected to public councils?

In conclusion, I wish Kuwaiti women success and hope that they will be able to remove obstacles in order to promote their ideas and prove that they are worthy and completely capable like any other Arab women in our sister countries.

9882

CSO: 4404/267

BRIEFS

IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN HAMAH--The State Company for Irrigation Installations in Hamah will carry out 21 projects in Hamah province this year at a cost of SL71,054,000. Engineer 'Abd al-Razzaq Na'im, the company's executive engineer, explained to AL-THAWRAH's correspondent that one of these projects was to construct 12 housing units for the Municipality of Hamah, containing 240 apartments, at a cost of SL24,890,000. There is also a project to build housing villas for the Hamah Electricity Directorate at a cost of SL2,403,000. There are projects to repair al-'Alamayn Street and the bridge of the Four Norias, to build a vocational secondary school in the city of Hamah, and to build another one in Salamiyah. Each secondary school will cost SL9,120,000. A dental school and a university housing project will also be built. The executive director made it clear that the company's plan for this year is to implement several projects in Hamah and other provinces at a cost of SL244 million. The engineer referred to the fact that the company implemented 981 projects last year in Hamah and other provinces at a cost of SL206,104,416, including SL49,384,000 in the province of Hamah. [Text] [Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 3 Feb 82 p 4]

7005

CSO: 4404/293

PREMIER OUTLINES THEORIES ON ATTAINMENT OF MAGHREB UNITY

Cairo AL-HIWAR AL-'ARABI in Arabic No 1 Jan 82 pp 124-138

/Article by Mohamed Mzali: "The Intellectual and Economic Bases of Maghreb Unity"/

/Excerpt/ Since the countries in the Maghreb area attained full independence, we have been dealing with a difficult balance, between building up the countries and building up the region, and we have inherited the unremitting pursuit of public affairs. In our countries there has always been a feeling that the regional resources available have been harmed and the appropriate historical opportunities which would characterize construction of the countries have been missed. In addition, there is the yearning to accelerate the establishment of firm foundations for building up the Maghreb, rather than having us confine our efforts and ambitions to the narrow framework of the geography of national sovereignty.

I do not believe that anything in our course of action indicates that we have taken the building of the countries as an objective which would be a substitute for building up the region. Rather, urgent requirements that have emerged in terms of security, food, housing, employment, education and administrative organization have pressed themselves upon us, and there has been no way to avoid facing these. We have not had the option of turning away from them. Moreover, to tell the truth, we in the various areas of the Maghreb have been nourished with a spirit of nationalism regarding our respective countries. We have nourished the minds of our children with it and have whetted the determination of the regular members of the political parties and popular organizations with it, and from the Maghreb we have inherited the national notion of the sovereignty of the state. We adhere to the standards of the nation state and cling to it as a slogan of struggle and a title of identity. We see no scope beyond that for building up the future, now that the responsibility for this construction has devolved upon us and we have assumed the honor of aspiring to its responsibilities.

The notion of the geographical concurrence of the scope of political sovereignty and economic activity has prevailed among us, through tradition and analogy, as it has prevailed, and still does prevail, in the Western nation-states, before and after their acceptance of regional cooperation. We have made the geography of a given country the preferred scope for the pursuit of economic construction. We have come, in differing degrees of resources, potentialities and investments, to aim at different types of domestic economic independence, industrial sovereignty

and self-sufficiency in food. Indeed, the establishment of domestic industries has become one of the most prominent tenets of domestic independence. Through this, we have had the objective of arriving at a degree of ability to do without others, even when they are our closest neighbors.

These have been some tenets of the logic of narrow economic nationalism, and some of the most conspicuous effects of national construction, in the countries of the Maghreb during the first stage of political activity, which has been marked by a character of realism in its dominance over conceptions of the future or a drift to the east. These have been some of the consequences of the total devotion to daily activities and the lack of attention to zealous examination of future possibilities. In some of their facets, they have represented a struggle between the past and the dominance by the present which has asserted itself and the eras which are expected in the future. The more our longing urges us to our common demands and goals, the more we put it back among the storehouse of anticipated hopes and indulge ourselves in the hope that there will be a proper time for every demand, that the time for building up the Maghreb has not yet come and that the conditions have not yet been provided for doing so, but that is inevitably coming and will bring us to the threshold of our hopes.

We have fallen prey to the dialectic of coexistence between the horizon of accumulated needs and the horizon of anticipated hopes. We have the power only to accept the differences in timing that lie between the two horizons and accept for the sake of argument that the domestic construction of the individual country must precede the building up of the region and must prepare for it: there has been no way for each country in the Maghreb to proceed along its own road to construction, pursue its problems and establish the particular projects and separate institutions it can in a way whereby provisions for solidarity and the wherewithal for cooperation can be arranged. However, what does one have that one can take to the market of mutual transactions, in addition to one's own needs and hopes? Independent individual construction becomes a necessary link and landmark in the course of regional cooperation and a springboard to the common road which we want to travel along with our hopes, our projects and whatever accomplishments our efforts have brought about.

Historians and people writing on the past who are pioneers in the social and political sciences will devote themselves to an analysis of this phenomenon of national introversion and will demand to interpret it with the powers of comprehensive investigatory vision they possess. However, no such cold scope for analytical and interpretative ability is available to our present generation: We are still in the middle of the road, pursuing reality, combatting problems and trying to keep them, with all their abundance and complexity, from dominating our stores of hope and our share of resources for building a common destiny. However, it seems to me, and I am one of the scions of the Maghreb engaged in this difficult pursuit who have not been permitted by circumstances and have not the inclination by taste just to be writers of the past or people of vision and do not have an extreme attachment to the exercise of interpretation of the future--it seems to me that delays and postponements in the various stages of inevitable timing that the plan for the Maghreb has been afflicted with may basically be attributed to a sort of narrow conception of what we term "development." There are still people in our

midst who confine such development to the engineering accounting viewpoint and consider that that will be achieved only through the quantitative growth that occurs in some of the numerical variables that enter into the calculation of gross national product which, to them, are the components of the domestic economy and the major variables connected to it, such as manpower, employment, for example. If the increase in gross national product reaches an annual rate of 5.3 percent, for example, 7.6 percent, or the desired level, the countries are considered to be advancing along this numerical road of development; some of them are advanced, others follow them, a third group is faltering, and a fourth group is dragging along a heavy burden of poverty, ignorance, and subordination in the throng of the backward.

Adherence to this engineering accounting view of the concept of development goes back to the fifties, when the mechanical notion prevailed in the literature of the economics of backwardness which held that the peoples of the third world had "fallen behind" the cavalcade of the "advanced" industrial peoples, that evidence for that were the quantitative differences that stood between per capita incomes here and there and the gap that was apparent between the nutritional value and composition of the food consumed, the number of people employed, the rate of full and disguised unemployment, and the number of refrigerators, fully equipped toilets and other accepted indices and artificial criteria, and that development, as far as the peoples of the third world were concerned, took the form of "catching up" to the peoples of the industrialized world and the levels of income, degrees of commodity consumption and even types of waste that these fortunate peoples enjoyed. This development was embodied in particular in the assumption of a consumerist style of living which was an incentive to providing production and stimulating the markets of demand and supply. If they caught up to these peoples that would mean their absorption into them through emulation and mimicry, by glorifying waste and profligacy and eliminating the intrinsic characteristics and cultural features with which these backward peoples were distinguished.

Thus strange development strategies arose, strategies which were not content with the quantitative goals of major economic variables in the form of gross national product, employment and industrialization but held, rather, that social and cultural change and emulation of the Western social pattern were necessary for the construction of society and that there was no approach to attain this sort of "progress" and fusion with Western society but the one the industrial Western and Eastern countries had followed from the dawn of the modern renaissance; it was their belief that history is a cultural destiny, that all mankind is alike, and that what is suitable for people different from us in times different from ours is correspondingly suitable for our generation in our advanced era, although circumstances have changed and many standards of thinking, taste and notions of a life of dignity have evolved.

There is no need to state what great simplification and trivialization this mechanical-engineering theory entails and what statistical escapades it involves in the form of violence to reality and unscientific generalizations. It did not take long for the economic literature to turn these misleading pages and for their authors' books to pass into a number of historic reference centers on the development of economic theories, whereas the authors had hoped they would be guiding

lights of modern economic practices. The influence of these theories on many countries of the third world and areas of our Maghreb led to the pursuit of a path to development which was confined to quantitative indices of commodity production and to an emphasis on the role of industrialization (especially heavy industrialization) in uplifting economies and reducing the proportion of agricultural investments. Whether that industrialization was "basic," in the language of economists, or was an alternative to importation--even if restricted to the production of consumer goods--the element of emulation and mimicry of Western and Eastern patterns of industrialization was one of the obvious characteristics in it. There was no way to avoid that, and it would have brought no harm upon our course, had such industrialization been paralleled by a corresponding resurgence in the industrial field or had it been aimed at satisfying the tangible, unequivocal, high-priority domestic needs of all the groups of the peoples of the Maghreb, or had the factories been built to productive sizes and capacities based on current absorptive capacities, and those of the foreseeable future, that our domestic markets possessed and the present and future buying power that the consumers of various classes in the Maghreb nation possessed.

The adoption of foreign development patterns led us, as it led others besides us in many countries of the world, to follow a path of industrialization whose haphazard nature and whose distance from the actual state of our requirements we acknowledge today. The peoples of South America pursued this imitative path before we did and preceded us in realizing what harm and deviant conduct there was in this type of industrialization through emulation and how deficient it was in what the American economist Rostow has called "economic takeoff." This failure prompted the emergence in the economic literature of Latin America of a theory which propounds that a firm linkage between development policy, especially in the field of industrialization, and satisfaction of the basic needs of the classes of the people in general, is a basic goal which should enjoy a high degree of priority. In addition, development strategy became based on a firm linkage between economic activity, in its incentives and goals, and the innate social characteristics of each society. Development would be successful only if it derived its goals from the requirements of society and desisted from imposing a style of life and forms of consumption upon it which in their pursuit and traditions were not genuine or prompted consumption to assume an alien cultural pattern. Development became a process of social radicalization and cultural inculcation, having, for a long time, been a process of social westernization and cultural nationalization and a means for the despoliation of one's identity and violation of the distinctive characteristics of one's civilization.

It is my belief that for the most part it has become a feature of our economic behavior in the countries of the Maghreb that we have held to the cultural theory of development and have abandoned, or almost abandoned, the quantitative engineering view which is restricted to the growth of gross national product, out of the belief on our part that man's humanity is not enhanced by the increases that occur in gross national product, as the great Latin American economist Raul Prebisch used to say, and that we have come to take it for granted that the citizens of the Maghreb have intellectual requirements of freedom and dignity and intrinsic values of language and religion which are many times greater than their material needs for food and clothing. The time of struggle when the people in our generation sacrificed material needs for the sake of the values of national dignity and the honor of human status is not far removed.

Today, to us, development has become a process of cultural inculcation in which intellectual progress and material development are intermixed, the opening up of the intrinsic personality and the satisfaction of basic needs mutually support one another, the people of the Maghreb enjoy their full share of determination over their destiny, and the opportunities for cultural renewal and innovation emerge as an extension of the laws of their deep-rooted genuine nature, rupturing the fetters of unjust subordination and contributing to progress. Perhaps the loftiest goal that I can see unifying our views of development is to bring the society of the Maghreb up to a stage of self-reliance in investing its human powers and its available natural resources, in facing the requirements of what Francois Berroux /called/ "the burden of man" with all their material and moral components, and in providing the requirements of the Koranic Village in the form of security, stability, self confidence and abundant sustenance, in accordance with his almighty glorious words; "And God has given as an example a village which was safe and secure and received its abundant sustenance from all places."

It need not be stressed that this self-reliance absolutely does not require self-sufficiency, introversion or isolation in the face of economic and cultural intercourse with modern societies. We do not aim for such introversion and evasion, nor can we attain it, even if we adopt a well-drawn goal for our international conduct: our world today has become like the ark of Noah (on whom be peace), we are all on board it in equal status, and none of us, on its various sides, has any place to escape to nor are there any corners on it for withdrawal. The peoples of modern society, in this final quarter of the 20th century, have entered an age of open inter-communication and objective solidarity. No nation or people has a destiny that can permit it to isolate itself or ignore other modern peoples and nations, and there is no experience which a people is tested by or trial that falls upon their dwellings which does not lie within the scope of the media whose offerings are disseminated among all mankind without exception. A political official, commenting on this interlinkage among peoples, has said, "We have emerged from the society of consumption and abundance and have entered the society of the media." This comprehensive media interlinkage is not the only incentive for the emergence of an objective solidarity among the peoples of modern society. From the dawn of the sixties we have become accustomed to reading, in the economic literature, about the theory of "global economy," stressing the firm interconnection among the peoples of modern society in the exploitation of natural resources and energy sources, warning of their depletion, out of anxiety on all these peoples' part to remedy the danger which is hovering over mankind, that of the aggravated wasteful consumption of these precious resources. To this end, two contrary approaches exist side by side today: the poor countries' approach of protecting their resources, adhering to their ownership of these resources, and insisting on their unchallenged rights of exploitation, and the rich industrial countries' approach of considering these basic resources of energy, fresh water, agricultural land and so forth as provisions which have been distributed among all mankind, not just for one group or a people to dominate or dispose of as if it were a property exempted from an unlawful geographical transference harmful to the economies of the world.

This, in my opinion, is the intellectual environment that surrounds us in the countries of the Maghreb and informs our efforts. These are some of the positive and negative elements affecting our development efforts and our present-day

construction, just as they affect other peoples besides ourselves. We today are living in a homogeneous world, in the midst of regional economic and political groups and within regions of military alliances. It is no longer feasible for an isolated country's voice to be heard in isolation in international discourse or for it to protect its interests, whatever degrees of armaments it may have attained, whatever levels of development of gross national product it may have acquired; material power alone no longer has the decisive say and influence in the balance of power and status among nations. Indeed, many of the international events we have witnessed in the last 20 years have proved that determination is more perseverant than weapons and that an abundance of wealth and resources does not always lead to welfare, progress or security. We are living in the midst of many nations today whose governments are rich but whose peoples are poor, whose resources are abundant but whose determination is wanting, whose powers are present but whose manpower is idle.

If we combine a view of the future with some figures governing the Maghreb countries in the present and the near future, we will find that the region's population today totals 46 million male and female citizens and will come to 85 million in 2000. Of this population of the Maghreb, the workforce comes to 39 million people ranging in age from 15 to 60, more than one third of whom are destined to require productive work which will enable them to fulfil their natures, more than half of whom are headed for an education, all of whom will need medical and health facilities, and all of whom lack good food and dignified housing. If we take note of our position in the world, we will find that the geography of the Mediterranean puts us midway between the European Common Market group to the West and the Council of Mutual Economic Cooperation group to the east. These two blocs contain about 600 million people, who share more than half of the annual income of the world; while their population does not exceed one fifth the world's total, they spend more than 5 percent of this enormous income on scientific research laboratories and technological innovations every year, above and beyond the massive expenditures they lavish to graduate competent local people in all realms of knowledge. It is these people whom we are dealing with and to whose markets we direct more than 60 percent of our revenues. We import more than half of our consumer and capital goods requirements from their factories and farms and send more than a million and a half people from the Maghreb to their polluting factories and workshops. Hundreds of the best of our specialized people, our skilled doctors and our university professors migrate every year to their institutions, their laboratories and their research and their learning facilities. We are giving their qualifications away as alms while we are in the most intense need of them.

We are today conducting a dialogue with these groups to the east and the west in isolation, we are negotiating by ourselves, and we are struggling alone and in a weakened state. In our midst are people who call for mutual assistance, the force of inexhaustible powers, resources that cannot be foresworne, and a tapestry of interrelationships that the days will not wear out with the passage of time and generations. Our blood is connected to the family of the Arab Moslem civilization and we are firmly linked to it by common cultural characteristics and a shared history. We still jointly partake of the glories and embrace the single unified creed of the Sunnites in our areas of the Maghreb. We derive sustenance from a common storehouse of moral and intellectual values. In al-Zaytuniyah 13 centuries

ago, in 'Uqbah's Mosque in al-Qayrawan and in the Mosque of al-Qarawiyn in Fez arose the first universities of instruction in the civilized world. Under their balconies circles of discussion and debate were organized and the light of knowledge radiated and different forms of learning spread to east and west from their expanses, that is our heritage and only in that lies our greatest strength. We always derive our sustenance from that, it is to that that we return, and it is to that that we seek refuge and succor whenever misfortune oppresses us. In an attempt to interpret the national awakening in the Maghreb, a French orientalist states, "Islam, in its teachings and in its spirit, was, in the period of the colonial occupation of the countries of the Maghreb, like a night watchman in an inn standing guard while people were sleeping and watching while people's consciences were inattentive." One need not mention that it is a religious upsurge that the political parties relied upon for awakening people's consciences in the days of the colonial occupation and depended on for addressing people's hearts, in order to resurrect national feelings, awaken people's determination and sharpen the will to struggle. This storehouse of civilization is still alive and in being; we nourish it and it nourishes us. It is our greatest strength in the comprehensive renaissance we seek. We depend on it as we depend on mines and energy, on revenues and population. It is our ally above all allies and our firmest bond above all bonds and pacts. It is that which has kept the identity of the Maghreb from harm under the pressures of cultural subordination. One of the signs of the strength of this common storehouse is the fact that the Arabic language today is regaining its pristine strength and status, having been constantly exposed to abuse and neglect for a century and a half.

It is with this sort of deep-rooted cultural storehouse that the nations of the Maghreb today agree to rely on themselves in regard to the assertion of identity, the defense of cherished ideals, and interest, and the provision for the future and requirements for the freedom, dignity and security they want. Within that common cultural storehouse lies an urgent call for solidarity. We answered its appeal in the recent past, in the arenas of Setif, Casablanca, and Sakiet Sidi Youssef. We will answer it today and tomorrow in order to build up the state, organize society and offer the ingredients for the development of all our peoples.

We all adhere to this Maghreb solidarity out of devotion, faith and determination, in spite of the obstacles and hurdles that still stand in the way of its consummation. We consider that the Maghreb countries are concerned with each one of these obstacles, wherever the location of its emergency and whatever the nature of its forms might be. We are responsible together and singly today and tomorrow for eliminating them from our path toward solidarity. Today we are all facing the same requirements, dealing with similar problems and wishing for homogeneous approximate goals in a single rank.

We are facing numerous requirements in order to alleviate man's burdens. From these we must first, and undeniably foremost, provide all our citizens with adequate good food and security from poverty and deprivation. Adequate amounts of food have become one of the most important development goals in our national plans. The obligation of solidarity requires that we look at our agricultural policies and truthfully and sincerely ask ourselves what we possess in the form of domestic resources of fresh water, productive land and technical skills that will guarantee

each country the production of foodstuffs of various types and what quantities we possess that will respond to estimated needs in the present and the near future, in the foreseeable range. We must also confront man's burdens in the field of labor secondly and in the following rank of priorities of emphasis. We must wonder, in the face of the cumulative onslaught of generations that are destined for productive, self-fulfilling work, whether our domestic economies, with the investments and feasible projects that are available to them, have the wherewithal to guarantee continuing sufficient employment without there being a need to resort to the waste of our human resources, because of reductions in markets, through emigration and westernization. Through this sort of truth and sincerity, we must wonder, jointly, about the requirements of suitable housing and treatment to preserve people's health and productive powers and the requirements of education for the upcoming waves of boys and girls in an atmosphere of equality of opportunity and loyalty to cultural identity that we will all inevitably face. Then we must together deeply study our present status in the present order in the field of scientific research and technological training and the requirements we will have to meet in the form of expenditures, training, outfitting and followup. These are among the requirements of the development that we are pursuing today in a narrow domestic manner in our countries.

At the same time, and at the same degree of importance, we must deal with a group of problems to which President Bourguiba gave the name "problems of independence and sovereignty." Of these, I might single out for mention, in the first rank, guaranteeing regional security in the western basin of the Mediterranean and along the southern desert edges of our territories, in order to preserve our region's safety from shocks and dissension. We have a basic need to provide security on common national grounds, so that we can fully devote ourselves to building up a cohesive Maghreb society which is in a state of solidarity, is dominated by mutual trust and is governed by the law of most favored status and disdain for the reprehensible and the unjust. We need to provide regional security on economic grounds; how many financial investments which had been set aside for construction projects in our development plans have we lost because we had no choice but to divert them from their original purposes and spend them on the purchase of arms and war materiel? One of our major problems, which became aggravated in the sixties and has become less severe today, thanks be to God, was created by our own efforts in the form of ideological affiliations between the eastern and western blocs which caused us torment and suggested patterns of political organization and social and economic construction to us. Through practice, we have come to realize the weaknesses that exist in these ideologies in the context of the cultural characteristics with which our nation is marked and the loss and damage that has befallen us through their destructiveness. In of that, some of our options are still imprinted with their characteristics and blemished by their particular features in the means for industrial construction or agricultural revival and in the guidance of commercial transactions. Perhaps our most difficult existing cultural problem and the one with the greatest danger for the future of our countries is embodied in the demand for a balance between modern requirements on the one hand and the requirements of cultural genuineness and national identity on the other. The complexities of this difficult balance are not confined to the realm of development or to the policies of economic behavior; rather, they are complexities which exist in all the fields of construction and development in our countries, in political options, in regimes,

in relationship of law to belief, in the relationship of the state to the citizen, in social systems and sources of justice and arbitration among interests, in educational curricula in particular, in the upbringing of generations and in the intellectual and cultural support that that requires from the sources of morality which must be relied upon in individual and social conduct.

In terms of the gravity of its status, the ramifications of its intentions and the volume of the dialectical struggle among its given points, I see no problem in our Maghreb countries, and in the Arab countries in general, today, which comes close to that of modernization and genuineness. I do not believe that our generation is alone capable of producing the proper solution to this issue or of uttering the determining word on it by itself. Indeed, it is an abstruse issue, one of the greatest of modern times, one of the seminal issues that face the world conscience today, in view of the review that modern society is turning to as a comprehensive result of the style of modern life and the cultural renovation it aspires to in order to restore to moral values their status among the sources of conduct, relieving rich societies of the sins of gluttony, waste and mutilation, and restoring to the balance of moderation and justice its status of esteem and governance. In our region of the Maghreb, we cannot remove any regional construction project from this difficult, absorbing balance between the facts of the age and the call for genuineness and identity. We wish good fortune and resurgence for a distinctive, well-regarded nation, not good fortune accompanied by abuse or a resurgence concomitant with the severance of cultural bonds and the violation of the features of its own identity.

Rather, we, in responding to these requirements, through our treatment of these mutual responsibilities, want to achieve precious goals, the apportionment of justice among our peoples of the Maghreb. We must become agreed about the construction of a Maghreb society that develops securely within its national and regional boundaries, in this sensitive area of the passageways of the Mediterranean. We realize that that requirement, with its exorbitant burden and cost, is above the powers of individual countries and that it will not be easy to meet it except within the scope of common effort, unified will, mutually supportive determination, and coordinated planning. We hope that we will succeed in breaking the chains of subordination in its various economic, scientific and technological manifestations and in guaranteeing our society freedom of choice, our young people the capacity to innovate, and our human resources and powers the scope for economic and social effectiveness.

We realize, through review and practice, that that is a long-range demand, lofty in status, that our fragmented efforts and dispersed strivings are inadequate in the face of it, and that there is no way to catch up to it except through solidarity, mutual assistance and support.

We must build, for ourselves and for the generations to come after us, a Maghreb society which is humane in its features, clear in its identity, firm in its genuineness, open in its aspirations, capable of meeting needs, upright in conduct, noble in status, not introverted or timid, and prolific in the ability to innovate and create. We realize for a certainty that this sort of noble goal cannot be striven toward except along the broad road and the clear path in which the

progress of all of us coincides and on whose byways people's efforts and determinations coalesce, people's consciences come together, and people's powers become coordinated.

It is my belief that the peoples of the Maghreb believe in the inevitability of a common Maghreb destiny, that Maghreb solidarity in the ranks of the masses of the Maghreb is a vital, latent social reality, and that in this good measure of fraternity and sympathy we have the most beneficial remedy and the strongest weapon for transcending the problems that exist among us and the firmest support and broadest storehouse for obtaining the common goals we aspire to.

In conclusion, let us build for the long range, look at the broad horizon, follow the path toward propriety and proper guidance and embrace noble goals. Perhaps God will strengthen our efforts with success and support our course with guidance, for he is the guardian of success.

11887

CSO: 4504/202

SIGNS OF WEAKNESS IN GOVERNMENT OUTLINED

Tunis AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Feb 82 p 1, 2

[Article by Hammadi Ibn Sa'id: "Government Weakened by Disputes Among Its Members"]

[Text] A dispute among members of a government, any government in any country, poses no threat as long as this dispute does not involve fundamental policy directions. We often hear differences of opinion among some ministers over a secondary political decision, the sequence or haste in applying some action or some specific reform and this is not detrimental to essential issues or governmental solidarity.

However, the disputes which have been rocking the Tunisian government for several months give rise to concern and questions about how compatible its members are and the extent to which they are in agreement on basic issues. To demonstrate this, we will touch briefly upon the most important "dissonances" which have emerged since the middle of last year and now appear to have reached their peak.

1. In April 1981, the prime minister announced a general increase in wages running between 12 and 20 dinars. He also promised at the same time that there would be no rise in prices until the beginning of 1982, which would see a review of joint contracts and a rise in the pay scale, something that would protect the purchasing power of the people from shrinking. A few weeks after this positive step, the minister of finance and planning asked the government to agree to a rise in the price of oil so that he could finance the "serious deficit" in the compensation fund. Here is where opinions diverged as many ministers had rejected this request that would bring an inevitable rise in the prices of all consumer goods which required the use of energy in producing and distributing them. This would damage the credibility of the government which had promised there would be no rise in prices until after the end of the year. Other ministers also opposed the initiative of the minister of finance and planning as an exaggeration of the situation as the monies needed by the fund had already been earmarked in the budget and the whole issue was nothing more than working out an adjustment with the general treasury. With regard to the additional deficit in the fund, then amounting to 13 million dinars, they suggested a technical solution involving the deduction of this amount from the significant profits earned by the central bank because of the rise in the rate

of the American dollar (from 370 milliemmes to 510 in 6 months) representing two-thirds of hard currency reserves. Despite this, it was decided to go ahead with the increase in fuel prices with a resulting flareup in the prices of all goods and a decline in the purchasing power of the popular classes. This gave birth to legitimate social tensions involving all sectors which are now being aggravated and getting out of hand.

The problem here involves not jsut a transient disagreement over a technical action but rather an issue of a fundamental divergence of opinion among those who hold to a "free market and materialistic" economic course (we recognize how it has become bankrupt in France, Britain and the United States) based on a reactionary view of production and its relationships and conditions and of its economic benefits and of the distribution of the fruits of development on the one hand among other elements, a view, if not socialist, then at least not devoid of a sensitivity toward issues of "social justice" and its requirements.

2. A few weeks before the recent legislative elections, the minister of the interior surprised when, with no prior warning, he made a public statement that "President Habib Bourguiba felt it would be better that ministers and members of the political bureau not be nominated for membership in the Chamber of Deputies." This statement hit like a bomb in political circles, causing heated arguments between Driss Guigua and many of his colleagues. After this, the prime minister made a demarche with the president and the party which in the end had no objection to the nomination of some ministers and members of the political bureau within the lists of the National Front.

Here the disagreement is also deeper than is apparent at first glance. It is based on diverging views of the role of the minister; some visualize him as a staff man with no coloration and no constituency, subject to all instructions and orders he receives and with his political existence ending with the conclusion of his official duties. This view is not shared by all members of the government.

3. The minister of information recently stated that a distinction should be drawn between the party and the government, as is the case in advanced countries when a party official rises to assume governmental responsibilities, he ceases his narrow affiliation to take on issues that concern the broad national aggregate and because at times some government decisions might be out of line with the program of the party itself; therefore, drawing a distinction between them would serve the interests of both. This drew a strong reaction, started by the minister of the interior and followed by the director of the party and ending with the prime minister himself. They all felt unanimously that it was unrealistic to distinguish between the party and the government and, in fact, even insisted that no distinction be drawn between the party and the state. The difference here goes beyond form and words to touch upon basic political concepts. Our colleague, DIALOGUE, is wrong right down the line in trying to oversimplify the split between the prime minister and the minister of information and to make us think that the former was talking about the relationships of the party with the state from the political angle while the latter had dealt with them from the structural standpoint. It appears that the truth is that the minister of information had learned a lesson from events and had revised his view on the establishment, the composition of the establishment and

the division of influence within the society. This while Mohamed Mzali and his proponents are holding fast to the idea of the system of centralized system of government--so that we do not say absolutist--the latter being based on a supreme party after it assumed control in order to preserve the establishment as it is. The results of the recent legislative elections is proof of that.

All that we have reviewed constitutes the overt part of the reality of things within the regime. It is the hidden part that makes us skeptical about the ability of the government, as it is presently constituted, to find the solutions required by the prevailing critical situation in the country while it is in this state of dissension and disintegration. It is now confirmed that the discord at the very core of the government has now reached a stage as to prevent the customary political overhauls and patch jobs and this will inevitably lead to the disappearance of some faces from the political arena. However, changing persons is meaningless if not accompanied by a radical change in overall policy regarding political and union freedom, the relationship and conditions of production, how benefits are allocated and Tunis' cultural affiliation and strategic alliances.

The situation of the country demands an end to competition and rivalry to occupy leading positions in the establishment and the emergence of a nationalist government with the skills and harmony in fundamental choices as to make it capable of fulfilling its promises and achieving the radical reforms demanded by the society.

8389

CSO: 4504/198

DUBAYY TRADE FIGURES, INCREASE NOTED

Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 20 Feb 82 p 2

[Article by 'Ali Lashin: "18.6 Billion Dirhams in 9 Months; 38 Percent Increase in Exports and 5 Percent Increase in Imports"]

[Text] Dubayy's foreign trade volume, without counting oil exports, saw an increase of 1,603,000,000 dirhams, that is, 9.4 percent, during the first 9 months of last year, compared with the year before last, the volume having risen from 17.3 billion to 1,606,000,000 dirhams.

There was a big increase in the value of exports since they jumped from 2.630 billion dirhams to 3.629, an increase of 999 million or 38 percent. During the same period, there was an increase in imports of 694 million dirhams or 5 percent since the total value of imports up to the end of September 1981 rose to 14.937 billion dirhams compared with 14.243 billion at the end of September 1980.

However, the value of the transit trade dropped by 69.2 percent during the same period, it having been 130 million dirhams at the end of September 1980 and did not exceed 40 million dirhams at the end of September 1981. Fully manufactured goods, led by electrical and electronic products, constituted the first major group of Dubayy's imports during the first 9 months of 1981. The total value of these goods was 5.786 billion dirhams, 38.7 percent of total imports during the period.

Automobiles and means of transport occupied second place since they totaled 3.837 billion dirhams or 25.7 percent.

Foodstuffs, including live animals, oils, plant and animal oils, tobacco and carbonated drinks, came in third, totaling 2.094 billion or 14 percent.

Petroleum byproducts held fourth place, amounting to 1.777 billion dirhams or about 12 percent.

Raw materials and semi-processed goods, including chemicals, accounted for only 8 percent of total imports, thereby occupying last in importance in the groups of commodities with a total value of 1.204 billion dirhams. More than half of Dubayy's imports come from four countries, Japan, and United States, the United

Kingdom and Bahrain, as these countries have a 51.4 percent share of Dubayy's imports. Dubayy's imports from Japan total 3.009 billion, mostly vehicles and industrial goods. Its imports from the United States total 1.904 billion dirhams, also mostly vehicles, manufactured goods and foodstuffs. Dubayy's imports from Britain amounted to 1.570 billion, mostly vehicles, various manufactured goods and chemicals and its imports from Bahrain, primarily petroleum byproducts, were worth 1.2 billion dirhams.

Six other countries, West Germany, Italy, India, Singapore, France and Australia had a part in supplying 31.6 percent of Dubayy's total imports during the aforementioned period.

In addition to the above 10 countries which supplied Dubayy with 73 percent of its imports, 106 other countries had a part in supplying Dubayy with the remaining 27 percent of its imports.

If we turn to the export and reexport trade from Dubayy during the first 9 months of last year, we find that industrial goods also occupy first place since their total value was 1.509 billion dirhams or 41.6 percent. Then comes automobiles and means of transport with 575 million dirhams for 16 percent. Then comes foodstuffs worth 573 million dirhams of 15.8 percent and then petroleum byproducts worth 569 million dirhams or 15.6 percent.

Most of these exports are sent to Iran, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait, and India as these countries absorb a total of 67 percent of Dubayy's exports. The remaining percentage is sent to 110 countries throughout the world.

8389

CSO: 4404/302

ELECTRICITY, WATER PROJECTS

Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 18 Feb 82 p 2

[Article: "1.4 Billion Dirhams in 1982 Electricity and Water Budget for Al-'Ayn and Abu Dhabi"]

[Text] Total fiscal estimates for the 1982 budget for the electricity and water departments in Abu Dhabi and Al-'Ayn amount to 1,980,355,000 dirhams for the Abu Dhabi department and 294,299,000 dirhams for the Al-'Ayn department.

This was reported in a memorandum from the financial department in Abu Dhabi which contained the draft 1982 budget for both departments which will be submitted to the executive council for approval.

There was a 43 percent increase in the estimates in this year's budget for the Abu Dhabi department, or an increase of 328,125,370 dirhams over last year's rate which amounted to 770,229,630 dirhams.

The note attributed the increase to rising fuel costs for power and distillation stations which amounted to 252,863,000 dirhams and to increased costs of fuel which is supplied to the department.

The note also stated that the department also felt that there were requirements for 1981 which necessitated the appropriation of large amounts to be paid in 1982 as the result of rising prices and that they are currently being surveyed so that the issue of the cost can be referred to the quarters concerned.

The note raised other causes for the increased estimates for this year, citing increased pay and allowances in the amount of 32,741,000 dirhams arising from the cost of creating new staff jobs and daily workers needed to handle the expansion in the department's activity, particularly since there are new units for power stations in Umm al-Nar and Bani Yas. There has also been an expansion in the water system and in the electrical grid system to handle expansions in roads in Abu Dhabi. Added to this is the cost of subsidies which have been authorized for citizens.

Another reason for the increase according to the note is that there is a 14,585,000 dirham increase to cover operating and maintenance burdens arising

from expansion in the electric and water systems, power and distillation plants and external generators. The note attributed another increase of 25 million dirhams to the purchase of workshop equipment and tools and spare parts for the machinery and equipment in the power and distillation stations.

With regard to the water and electricity department in the al-'Ayn area, there was a 13 percent rise in the estimates for 1982, that is, 34,197,000 dirhams, mainly confined to allocations for pay amounting to 27,460,000 dirhams, because of increase in staff jobs and daily workers needed to handle the department's increased activities and also the expansion in services for the city of al-'Ayn and its suburbs.

The note attributed the increased estimates to increased allocations for spare parts for stations and the department's need for tank trucks to supply the areas not covered by the water system, such as Sha'abiyah al-Muqam, al-Markhaniyah, etc.

8389

CSO: 4404/302

AGRICULTURAL SURPLUSES NOW EXPORTED TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 19 Feb 82 p 2

[Article by Husayn Anwar: "For the First Time UAE Exports Surplus Agricultural Products; 125 Tons Shipped Per Day to Neighboring Markets"]

[Text] Sa'id al-Raqbani, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, announced yesterday in a statement to AL-BAYAN that the UAE has this year for the first time been able to export its surplus agricultural products after completely meeting the needs of consumption in local markets. It has begun to export about 125 tons of vegetables a day to neighboring countries since the first of the year.

The minister added that this level of agricultural production, characterized by its high quality and competitive prices in the area despite costs of transport and shipment, comes as a natural result of the efforts of the ministry and officials in the UAE to support agricultural production there as an economic goal under the state's long range strategy of achieving self-sufficiency in all requirements and exporting the surplus as a national product to be added to state's developing resources.

In his statement, al-Raqbani pointed out that the growth of agricultural production in the state had been achieved because of the following: The Ministry of Agriculture is working to provide the various varieties of vegetables that had proved their superiority and strains that would withstand diseases and give maximum production and highest quality. Providing quality fertilizers in quantities in excess of actual needs to ensure the highest possible quality.

The state is ensuring maximum protection from disease and insects with about 51 spraying teams deployed in all agricultural areas. The ministry has expanded the distribution of insecticide sprayers at 50 percent of cost. This comes in addition to media efforts aimed at increasing the awareness of agricultural workers in order to achieve the best results. The minister ended his statement by saying: "Agricultural production of vegetables this season will reach about 126,000 tons. The agricultural development process during the previous year, 1981, achieved good rates of production and growth was 13 percent over the previous year since the total agricultural production crop, cattle breeding and fishing amounted to about 376,000 tons, of which vegetables comprised 127,000 tons, dates and fruit 59,000 tons, agricultural crops 91,000 tons, meat 8,000 tons, 27,000 tons of milk and milk products and eggs and 64,000 tons of fish for a total value of 933,000,000 dirhams.

PARATROOPER GRADUATION CEREMONY

Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 22 Feb 82 p 4

[Article by Naji al-Hayik: "Bati Maktum Sees Graduation Ceremony of Paratroopers in the Central Military Area"]

[Text] Col Bati al-Maktum, deputy commander of the central military area, witnessed the graduation ceremony of the initial class of paratroopers and a free-fall jump in the area.

The graduation ceremony began at 0800 hours with six paratroopers making a free jump. Then 20 paratroopers made a regular jump. The free jump was won by Paratrooper Sa'id Muhammad, Cadet Maktum Muhammad and Pfc Jasem Muhammad while the regular jump was won by Sgt Mahdi Juma'ah, Pvt Muhammad 'Abdullah and Pvt Ja'id Khamis.

It should be noted that the initial paratrooper course last 2 months during which the paratrooper makes nine jumps, seven during the day, the eighth at night, and then the ninth jump, the graduation jump. A regular jump is from an altitude between 1000-1,500 feet. The free-fall jump is entered voluntarily by paratroopers who have completed the initial course since a free jump is not dependent on altitude. The altitude might be as high as 12,000 feet or might be 2,000 feet. The key point of a free-fall jump is that the paratrooper depends on himself to open the parachute while in a regular jump the parachute is opened by a static line.

For a paratrooper to receive his title, he must complete a number of training sessions. They involve ground training in which the paratrooper makes a 150 kilometer night march; this training continues for about 10 days. Then the ground training takes place in the "paratroop school" section where he receives lectures on the problems a paratrooper might face during a jump and how to board and jump from an aircraft. He also hears lectures on the parachute and its accessories and other lectures on how the paratrooper should use a compass while carrying arms. This training lasts 2 weeks. After the ground training and the training in the section is over, there will be outside training. At the start this is usually two jumps a day from helicopters. The novice paratrooper continues this phase until he gets used to jumping. After this stage is over, the paratrooper receives his title.

It should be noted that four paratrooper classes are graduated each year, three classes in regular jumping and the fourth in free-fall jumping.

At the end of the ceremony, Col al-Shaykh Bati al-Maktum handed out the awards for superior students. The graduates totaled 28 soldiers.

8389

CSO: 4404/302

END

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

MARCH 30, 1982